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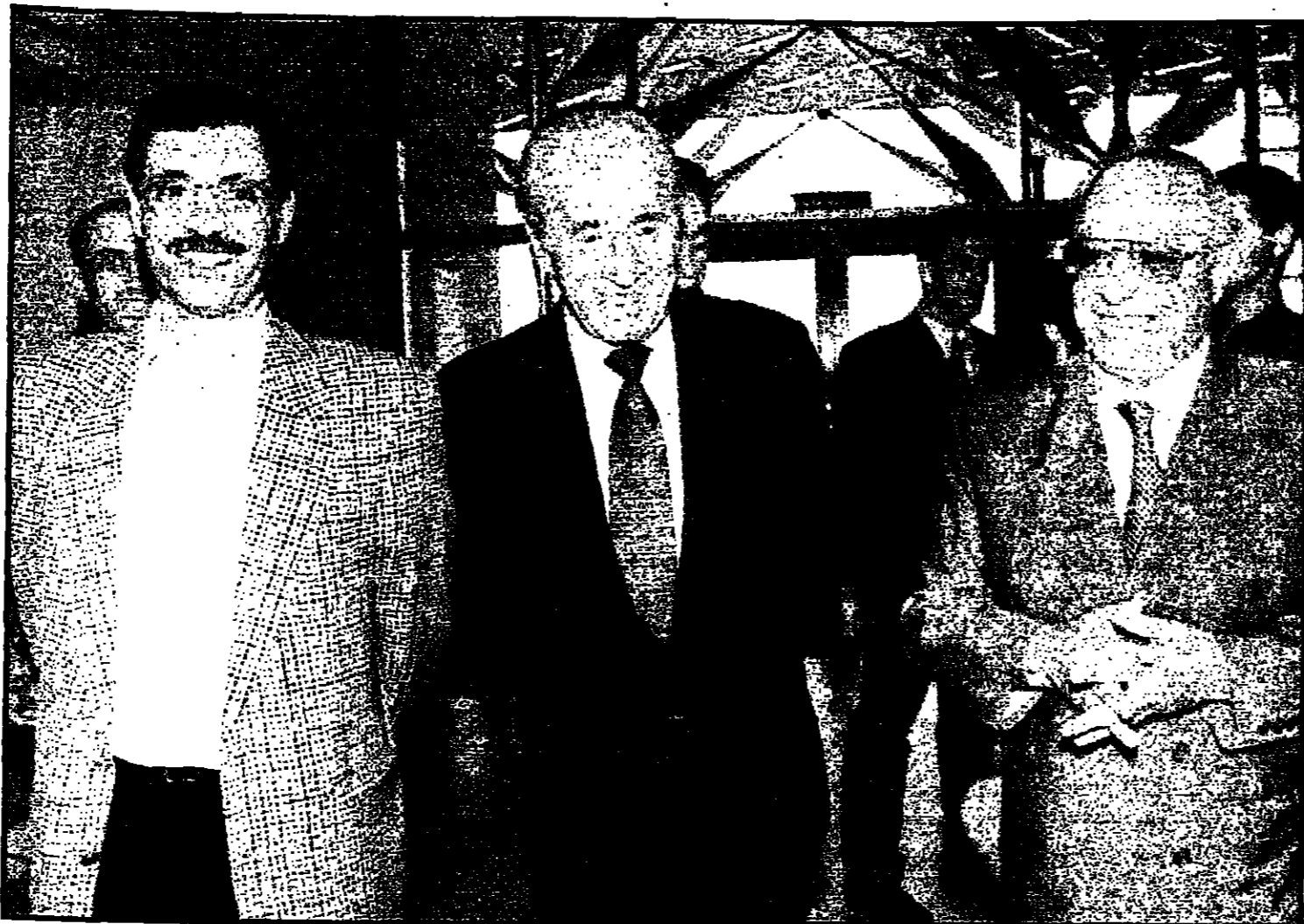
PM warns Hizbullah against escalation

DAVID RUDGE

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu issued a stern warning yesterday that any deterioration in the security situation in the North would have dire consequences for the Lebanese. "We are not prepared to accept a situation in which the Galilee, or [Haifa's] bayside suburbs would be in Katyusha range and would suffer rocket attacks on a permanent basis," he said during a visit to the North. In south Lebanon yesterday, an SLA officer was killed in a roadside bomb attack claimed by Hizbullah. "Therefore we have proposed to Syria and the Lebanese government, and to Hizbullah, that a way be found to resolve this dispute, because if not there is likely to be an escalation and this would no doubt be very painful to the other side," Netanyahu said. "We would prefer to reach arrangements that would allow peace and security here along the northern border," he said, stressing that any arrangements would have to include security guarantees for Israel and for all residents of the security zone, especially members of the South Lebanese Army and their families. Netanyahu also made it clear that Israel would not withdraw from the security zone until arrangements were reached with Lebanon. Alongside the warnings, Netanyahu reiterated that there is no concrete proof that Hizbullah

Syria test launched a Scud C

SYRIA tested a Scud C missile several weeks ago, Channel 2 reported last night. Apparently, the test was to determine the missile's range. Furthermore, a Syrian factory to produce Scud C's is already operating. The missile's range is 600 kilometers, which puts much of Israel within firing distance. The Scud C can carry 500 kilograms of explosives; the Scuds fired during the Gulf war carried 300 kg. Chemical and biological heads can be put on the weapon, which Syria acquired from North Korea. Syria reportedly has 20 Scud C launchers, a similar number of Scud B launchers and hundreds of missiles. (Itim) has acquired long-range Katyusha rockets capable of reaching Acre, Karmiel, and northern parts of the bayside suburbs. He began his tour, which included meetings with Kiryat Shmona Mayor Prosper Azran and members of the forum of heads of confrontation line communities, with a visit to Northern Command (Continued on Page 2)



Labor leader Shimon Peres (center), flanked by PLO peace negotiator Hassan Asfour (left) and Palestinian Council Speaker Ahmed Qreia, attend last night's celebration marking the third anniversary of the Oslo accords at Beit Gavriel. Story, Page 2

Israeli officials concerned over PA operating offices just outside Jerusalem

BILL HUTMAN

SEVEN Palestinian Authority offices are operating in A-Ram and Dahiyat al-Barid, just meters from the Jerusalem border, raising concern among some Israeli officials that the Palestinians have found a loophole to get around the ban on PA activity in the city. There is apparently nothing the government can do to stop the PA offices from operating, because they are officially just outside the municipal border and therefore not subject to the ban. "The Palestinian Authority has found a way to get around the ban by placing its offices in A-Ram and Dahiyat al-Barid," one official said. "The point of the ban was to prevent the Palestinians from being able to set up their capital in Jerusalem, but that is exactly what they are doing," he said. "They have managed to put many of their major offices in an area which is generally considered part of Jerusalem. We aren't talking about simply branches of PA offices, but major

headquarters for ministries and other authorities that serve Palestinians from all over Judea, Samaria and east Jerusalem." The offices include the PA Interior, Economy and Trade, Transportation and Planning ministries, the Housing Council, Geographic Center and the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), according to Palestinian and Israeli sources. The offices are only several dozen meters from the municipal border and the A-Ram IDF checkpoint. Security at the offices is provided by Palestinian guards. The sources said the PA has chosen to concentrate its offices in A-Ram and Dahiyat al-Barid, as opposed to other areas adjoining the capital such as Abu Dis, because of the area's proximity to Palestinian population centers in east Jerusalem and Ramallah.

The A-Ram area is part of a strip of post-1967 development that today has created a situation in which there is a continual stretch of Palestinian residents between Jerusalem and Ramallah, with the borders of the Palestinian communities between them visible only on maps. The sources said most of the offices have gone up over the past year. The Housing Council was

forced out of the municipal boundaries by the previous Labor government. PECDAR has operated in A-Ram for several years, because of the ban on PA activity in Jerusalem. The majority of the about 50,000 Palestinian residents of A-Ram hold Jerusalem residency cards, having moved to the area because of the housing shortage in east Jerusalem. "This is a situation we are apparently just going to have to get used to," an Israeli official said.

Settlers: TIPH must leave Hebron

JON IMMANUEL and EVELYN GORDON

THE Jewish community in Hebron demanded yesterday that the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH) force be removed from the city. The move followed statements by the head of the Norwegian observers that settlers have been provoking Palestinians. The Jewish community reacted angrily to his statements, accusing TIPH of unmitigated bias and demanding that it be removed. TIPH head Arnestein Overkil said that, in recent weeks, there has been more provocation by settlers, but that the army is containing it. "Our impression is there has been quiet and calm, but some settlers seem to be a little more provocative than before. On the other hand, the IDF has tried to break up the two parties if they saw clashes." Community spokesman Noam Arnon responded that "the UN observers ignore numerous incidents [of violence] against Jews. There are dozens of cases of stone-throwing, Molotov cocktails, etc. Just last Friday, Arabs threw bottles into the house of the Ben-Ya'acov family in Beit Hadassah. But none of this finds expression in TIPH's reports. They are not objective, and they do not serve peace," he continued. "They came with a mandate from the PLO, and they act accordingly. We demand that they be removed from the city." Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat said shortly before leaving for Egypt, the Gulf, and Geneva that Israel could not implement any new plan in Hebron without PA agreement. He added that if the PA and the Israeli government do not agree on Israel's planned format for redeployment, he would demand international arbitration. Meanwhile, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai reportedly canceled a visit to Hebron, scheduled for today, in which he was to have outlined his redeployment proposal. But Defense Ministry officials denied any meeting had been confirmed or that Mordechai had set a date for a meeting with Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe. Speaking to reporters in the North, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said, "There is no intention of evacuating the Jewish settlement in Hebron. It is an expression of the continuation of Jewish existence in the Land of Israel. We are talking about a framework, or arrangements, which will ensure the continued existence of the Jewish settlement with security, while ensuring our interests regarding the holy sites." Meretz MK Ran Cohen said postponing the redeployment in Hebron is inviting the next terrorist attack, which will then be used as an excuse to avoid keeping the Oslo Accords. "There is no vacuum," he said. "Either both sides continue the peace process and compromise, or there is a standstill, which will make way for extremist elements on both sides. Those extremists who want to put off the redeployment on our side are playing into the hands of the Hamas and Jihad on the other side. It would be a terrible mistake to let the terrorists dictate the peace moves." Arich O'Sullivan, David Rudge, and Michael Yudelevan contributed to this report.

Housing for 70,000 planned along Green Line

DAVID HARRIS

A PLAN to build housing for 70,000 people on both sides of the Green Line between Tulkarm and Kalkilya over the next four to five years was announced yesterday by Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush. National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon has pledged his active support for the scheme. Initially, 5,000 homes will be built over two years, expanding several existing community settlements, the largest of which is Kochav Yair, nine kilometers south of Tulkarm. The other settlements to be developed are Tzur Yigal, Matan, Bat Hefer, Tzoron, and Lapid, all to the west of the Green Line, and Oranit which crosses into Samaria. "Initially, we will build most of the homes on this side of the Green Line, but if we need to, we will definitely extend the settlements eastwards," a Housing Ministry source said. "This government sees the Green Line as being purely theoretical." The plan is a refined form of a 1990 proposal from Sharon, then housing minister, to build up to 20 settlements in the area; fewer than half that number were actually established. The Labor government failed

to adequately support those who moved to the area, according to a communique from the ministry. There were lengthy delays before power supplies were established; there remains a serious shortage of infrastructure and insufficient public provisions, including a lack of schools. "These communities are located in a region with a small Jewish minority," Porush said. "It's important to significantly increase their size. We are talking about an area of strategic importance, on hills overlooking Gush Dan and central Israel." A task force is being set up, comprising senior officials from the Housing Ministry. Its goal is to produce a specific plan for the rapid implementation of the proposals, which will turn the settlements into small towns. So far no budget has been set, but "the project will receive as much money as it requires, this is top priority," ministry spokesman Amit Dobkin said yesterday. The Prime Minister's Office had no comment on the plan last night. Suisse calls for annexation of Ma'aleh Adumim, Givat Ze'ev, Page 2

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Settlers demand meeting with PM, Page 2



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Settlers council requests urgent meeting with PM on Hebron

THE Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza has requested an urgent meeting with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on Hebron, in the opening move of what settlers plan as an intensive public campaign against the redeployment.

The campaign, decided upon at a meeting of various settlement and right-wing activist groups in Hebron Sunday night, is so far being framed strictly in the terms of a loyal opposition. Even its

slogan — a take-off on the electoral slogan "Netanyahu is good for the Jews" — expresses this idea. The slogan is to be "Netanyahu is good for the Jews; withdrawal from Hebron is bad for the Jews."

"I believe this government is good for us in principle," explained Noam Arnon, spokesman for the Jewish community in Hebron. "The question is how to apply a countervailing pressure to balance the pressure on the govern-

ment from the left and the diplomatic community ... We have to make the government understand that there is a great deal of pressure from the public, and this pressure won't permit it to make concessions or take dangerous steps in Hebron."

"We truly don't think we should come out against the government," said Ya'acov Novick, one of the heads of

EVELYN GORDON

the right-wing activist group *Melech Ma'amatz*, in an interview with *Arutz 7*. "But we do have to work on Hebron's behalf on the streets. If we don't do this now, we might soon be compelled to engage in anti-government activity, for lack of any other option."

"I'm not sure we have all the information about what happened at the

meeting of the 'kitchen cabinet' [on Sunday]," added Kiryat Arba resident and former Tehiya MK Elyakim Ha'etzni, who also sits on the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. "What is published in the hostile media is tendentious and doctored. But we have to act on the basis of the worst possible assumptions."

Due to the efforts not to make the campaign appear anti-government, cur-

rently no demonstrations are being planned. To start off with, Arnon said, the community merely plans to engage in a bumper sticker campaign and organize petitions. It is also producing a video on Hebron, which will be sent to all MKs and other public figures, and perhaps be shown in city centers on a big screen.

"We're trying to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars [for the campaign]," Arnon said.



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, visiting the northern border yesterday, speaks with paratroopers who clashed with gunmen in the security zone last week. (Avi Shapira)

(Continued from Page 1)

headquarters.

He then went to an observation point overlooking the Lebanese border and was briefed by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

Netanyahu also met with paratroopers who last week killed three members of a Palestinian terrorist squad in the security zone.

Netanyahu praised the morale and motivation of the troops and the excellent job they are doing. He stressed that Israel's activities in Lebanon are designed solely to protect northern communities.

Later, Netanyahu met with South

HIZBULLAH

Lebanese Army Commander Gen. Antoine Lahad and senior SLA officers at the IDF's Lebanese Liaison Unit's headquarters in Marjayoun, inside the zone.

He gave assurances that Israel had made commitments to the SLA and residents of the zone and that it would not abandon them in the event of any accord with Lebanon.

At about the time this meeting was taking place, an SLA officer was killed when a roadside bomb was detonated alongside his vehicle in the Christian Jezzine

enclave north of the security zone. Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the attack.

SLA sappers went to the scene and discovered another explosive device, which was safely destroyed.

Netanyahu also reiterated his call to Syria to resume negotiations, noting that Israel has proposed a framework for renewal.

"Every side would have the right to raise whatever [subject] it wants. We, however, would certainly wish to discuss the escalation [in fighting] and deterioration

[of the security situation] in Lebanon, because it does not serve us or Syria," he said.

Later, in his meeting with the forum of heads of confrontation line settlements, Netanyahu pledged that all the additional assistance, funding, and incentives promised by the previous government following Operation Grapes of Wrath, would be forthcoming.

He insisted that proposed budget cuts would not affect the confrontation line communities. He promised the council heads they could meet him again if any ministries are not honoring the pledges.

Peres celebrates third anniversary of Oslo Accord

MICHAL YUDELMAN

THE Oslo Accords have created a state of affairs which is irreversible, Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres said yesterday, on the third anniversary of their initialing.

Speaking at a celebration at Beit Gavriel on the Kinneret, also attended by Palestinian and Norwegian representatives, he cited the facts that the PLO and Yasser Arafat have become partners to the peace process, and most of the Palestinians in the territories are no longer under Israeli rule.

Peres slammed Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's guidelines, calling the idea of "Lebanon first" as a basis for talks with Syria ridiculous. He also said dividing Hebron up into civilian entities would lead to confrontation with the Palestinians.

"What does the government mean, re-examining Oslo? If there's an agreement, it should be kept. If it must be re-examined, that means there is no agreement," Peres said. "The principles of the agreement in Hebron are no different than in the rest of the territories, namely that the Palestinians will have self-government to a large extent. If [the government] wants to deprive them of that, all the rest is only talk."

Peres said he would "seriously

consider" a proposition to join a national unity government, if this would advance the peace process. However, he noted that such an initiative can only come from the government.

Netanyahu was asked by reporters during a visit to the North about the possibility of him meeting Peres and forming a national unity government.

He expressed willingness to consider the idea, but stressed it could only happen if Labor agrees to the government's guidelines.

"If Mr. Peres and the Labor Party were to accept the basic guidelines of the Likud-led government, we would be prepared to consider this. I have not, however, noticed that there is any willingness on this," said Netanyahu.

The Beit Gavriel gathering marked the third anniversary of the secret initialing in Oslo of the peace accord which set the framework for interim Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It was signed in Washington on September 13, 1993.

"It is very unfortunate that some people in the Likud do not view the Oslo Accords as their agreement. We signed with an Israeli government," said Mahmoud

Abbas, Palestinian architect of the Oslo Accords.

"I believe the process we started will be irreversible despite the problems," said Palestinian Council Speaker Ahmed Qreia, toasting Peres and presenting him with a silver sword, cuff links, and a tie to honor his recent 73rd birthday. "A meeting like this stresses the determination, even though we are facing great difficulties."

MK Yossi Beilin said the peace process is a fait accompli from which there is no way back.

"People's real desire for peace is ultimately so strong that politicians will not be able to keep it from them. It could take years, and the next few years might halt the process and lead to a resumption of violence, but it won't be a death blow. What we have done cannot be reversed," he said.

However, he said, "Netanyahu's government has no formulated or planned policy, and Netanyahu cannot reach a permanent settlement with the Palestinians. This stands still, the policy of no-peace, might lead to war. When there is no progress, there is a slipping backward, which could include a violent eruption of hostilities with Syria."

David Rudge contributed to this report.

Arafat: Israeli security checks are ruining PA economy

JON IMMANUEL

PALESTINIAN Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat said yesterday that three years after the secret signing of the Oslo Accords, security restrictions are driving the Gaza economy into the ground.

To drive the point home, the PA closed the Karni crossing point to Israeli goods destined for Gaza. Preventive Security Chief Mohammed Dahlan said that the one-day closure became necessary because Israel imposed rigid security restrictions on Palestinian exports of reconditioned refrigerators and tires without regard for the improved security situation.

Israel requires that all Gaza exports be checked a day ahead of time, and ignores Palestinian police efforts, "despite the fact that we post guards in each factory," Dahlan said.

Because of the extensive checks, "50 factories have closed," Dahlan said. The decision not to let Israeli goods into Gaza hurts Palestinians more than it hurts Israelis, he con-

ceded, but "I can't tell Palestinians that Israeli goods can enter while ours can't leave."

In a meeting with Israeli journalists, Arafat claimed that the closure costs Palestinians \$6 million a day, causes food shortages because of imports restrictions, and drives away Palestinian investors.

"We have rich Palestinian businessmen from Chile to Canada. In the beginning [of PA rule] they came here. But who can invest in a closed area?" Arafat said.

Dahlan said that the PA is upset because "during and after the attacks [in March] we understood the restrictions, but now everything is under control."

Israeli security sources said that refrigerators and tires require special and extensive searches because of the ease with which bombs could be hidden among them.

Arafat said he is doing every-

thing possible to suppress what he called "fanatic groups." He defended his policy of widespread arrests against claims that he is violating human rights, and asserted that the security danger is still very real.

"If you compare arresting these fanatic groups to [violating] human rights, you have to know I have no choice ... I am sure some fanatic Islamic group from outside is trying to sabotage us," he said.

PA General Security Service head Amin Hindi said last week that though there have been threats against the PA, he has received no recent information about planned attacks against Israel.

Despite the economic problems, Arafat said he does not fear trouble similar to the bread riots in Jordan.

"The morale of our people is very high," he said.

PA to unilaterally build Karni industrial park, Page 8

Suissa calls for greater Jerusalem

BILL HUTMAN

PARTS of the administered territories around Jerusalem, including Ma'aleh Adumim and Givat Ze'ev, should be annexed to the capital, according to Interior Minister Eli Suissa.

However, no firm plans for such a move have yet been worked on in the ministry.

Interior Ministry officials yesterday tried to calm hopes and concerns raised by news reports about Suissa's position. They cautioned that in recent interviews he has been expressing his personal view, and that he has done nothing concrete to move the idea forward.

In addition, the Interior Ministry has little say concerning annexation, as only the prime minister or the government as a whole can make

such a decision.

In an interview published yesterday in *Ma'ariv*, Suissa said he had raised the annexation idea with former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"Let me just say that Yitzhak Rabin did not totally reject the idea," Suissa said.

Suissa said annexation is essential to strengthen Israel's hold on Jerusalem.

He also said the move is needed to make land available for the city's development and that, together with annexation of parts of the administered territories, lands and communities to the west of Jerusalem should also be included

within the city's boundaries.

In the early 1990s, the Interior Ministry led the way in the annexation of some 15,000 dunams within the Green Line west of Jerusalem to the capital. But, according to Suissa, this was not enough and the city's borders need to be further expanded.

Mevasseret Zion council head Eli Muvayl strongly rejected the proposal his community be included in any expansion of Jerusalem.

"Mevasseret Zion residents will have no part of such a plan," he said. "People moved to this community to find a better quality of life than they could in Jerusalem" and don't want to become residents of the city again.

More arrests in Jordan as curfew continues

AMMAN (Reuters) — Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul-Karim Kabariti brushed aside calls for his resignation yesterday, as security forces rounded up people across the kingdom after two days of riots.

"No, I am not going to resign," Kabariti said with a smile following a call for his dismissal by opposition parties. "I am very happy with my government's performance."

The southern town of Karak, center of the unrest after the government doubled bread prices, was quiet yesterday as armored vehi-

cles patrolled the streets and enforced a curfew.

Security forces rounded up those suspected of joining in the worst disturbances in Jordan in seven years. Karak residents said as many as 300 people had been detained for the Friday and Saturday rioting, though many were quickly released.

"Right now everything is back to normal and we hope that starting from today everybody will have to go about his business as usual," Kabariti told reporters in Amman.

The Jordanian Arab Socialist

Baath Party, a pro-Iraqi organization that King Hussein had blamed for the riots, said in a statement its members had been detained in centers across the kingdom.

"The Iraqi Baath Party was somehow very much involved in fomenting this riot that started in Karak," Kabariti told reporters outside a government building in Amman.

But Khalil Haddadin, the party's only member in the 80-seat lower house of parliament, firmly denied any involvement. "Neither our party, nor other parties, had a role in what happened in the city of

Karak."

Karak residents also said the protests, which broke out three days after the government doubled the price of bread, stemmed from growing economic hardship. Bread is a staple food for the poor who form a majority of Jordan's 4.2 million people.

They said the government's response to the disturbances did not address people's grievances and could precipitate more trouble.

"If the government continues its iron fist policies there will be an explosion 1,000 times more pow-

erful than the one which already took place." Karak's Islamist Mayor Ahmed Mahadin told reporters.

The government accusations come at the end of a year in which Jordan reversed its previously close ties to Iraq. A year ago King Hussein gave asylum to President Saddam Hussein's sons-in-law.

The violence was the most serious in Jordan since 1989 riots that were also triggered by government price rises. The king responded then by changing his prime minister and starting democratic reforms.

Opposition routed in Lebanon election

BEIRUT (Reuters) — Government supporters routed the opposition in the first round of Lebanon's parliamentary elections, winning 32 of 35 seats in the Mount Lebanon region, Interior Minister Michel Murr announced yesterday.

The results of Sunday's vote in the Christian heartland were a crushing blow for the opposition, which hoped for a strong showing against the pro-Syrian government they accuse of failing to defend Lebanon's sovereignty.

In another major upset, the single Hizbullah candidate failed to win re-election in Baabda district

which includes Beirut's Shi'ite Moslem suburbs, raising the possibility that the group could emerge from the elections with less than its current eight deputies.

Analysts said that Shi'ites in the suburbs voted massively for Ali Ammar, but Christians and Druze in surrounding districts voted heavily for his more moderate Shi'ite rival.

Many Christians ignored calls by hard-line anti-government leaders to repeat a massive boycott of the last elections in 1992 which resulted in a parliament packed with pro-government deputies.

IDF protests shooting of Israeli Arab by Palestinian Police

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THE IDF barred all Israelis from Tulkarm and issued a stern protest to the Palestinian Authority yesterday, after Palestinian Police shot and severely wounded an Israeli Arab who apparently ran a roadblock.

Reports said the victim, a resident of the nearby village of Yama, was shot before dawn while driving a stolen car. He reportedly had stolen documents on him, including those of an IDF soldier.

Palestinian Police ordered the

driver to halt. He did not and the police opened fire and pursued him into Israeli territory, thus violating the Oslo Accords. A bullet pierced the back door and hit the driver in the back, seriously wounding him.

Israeli troops who arrived at the scene transferred the injured man to Meir Hospital in Kfar Sava. A police guard was set up at his hos-

pital bed, so the alleged car thief would not escape.

The IDF Spokesman said the army considered the shooting a very grave incident and issued a strong protest to the PA, demanding those involved be punished.

OC Judea and Samaria Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ofir ordered Tulkarm closed to Israelis until further notice.

A joint inquiry made up of Israeli and Palestinian authorities is investigating the incident.

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In deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father and grandfather

GERALD ROBERT COHEN

The funeral took place yesterday, August 19, in Ra'anana. Deeply mourned by:
His wife: Davene
His sons and daughters-in-law:
Dan and Rachel, Shmuel and Deborah,
Rabbi Tom and Rabbi Pauline
His daughter and son-in-law:
Shaari and Mark Hlebochuk

Shiva at the home of the deceased, 2249 Weizmann, Ra'anana. Ma'ariv: 7:45 p.m.

Handwritten signature: אריה או'סוליואן

in Hebron

es third slo Accord

...demonstrations are planned to start off with...

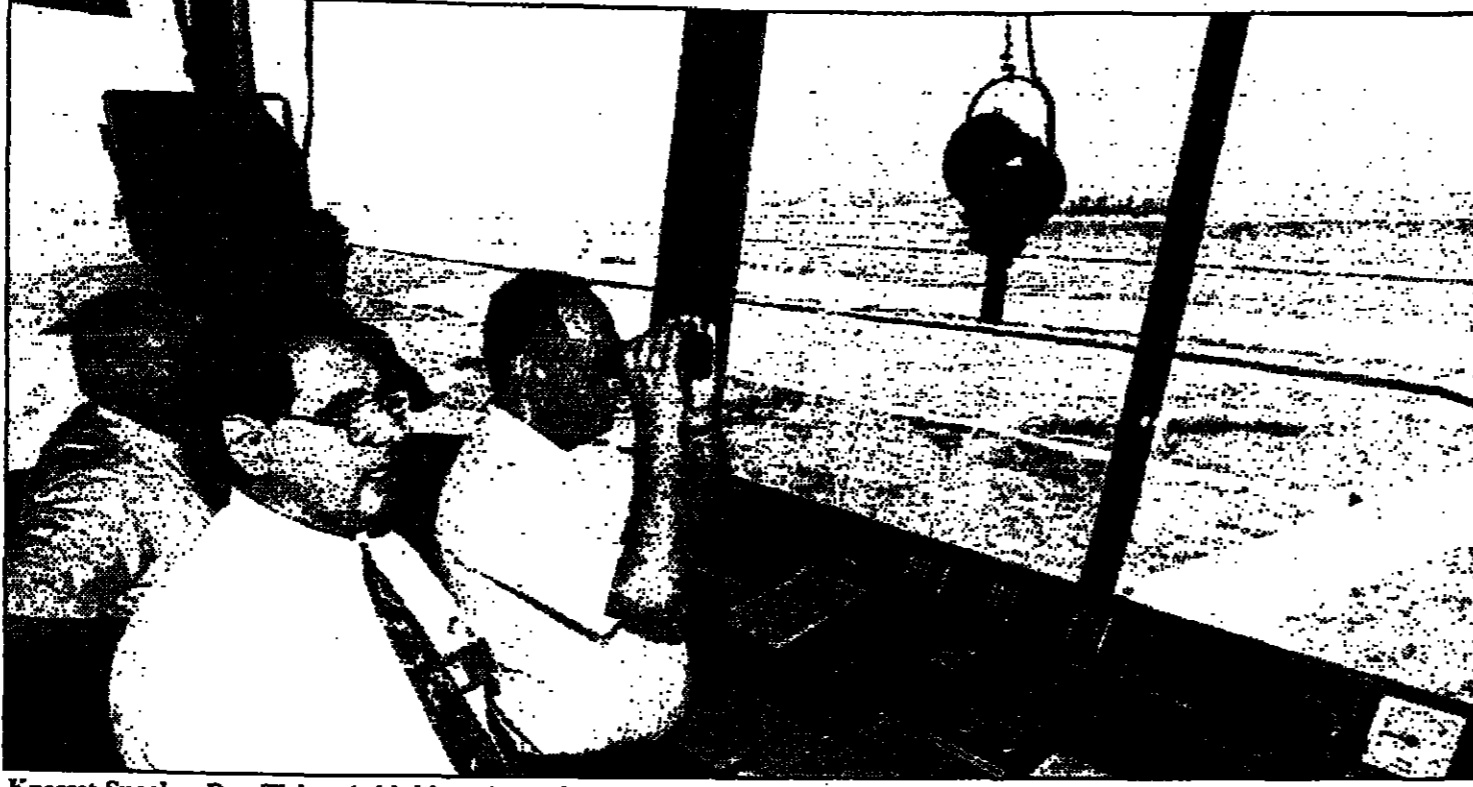
urity check economy

...the Home Front Command yesterday demanded that the gas containers at the Pi Gilot tanker farm...

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TRINISI BARRONS IN JERUSALEM



Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon (with binoculars) checks runway traffic from the control tower during a visit to Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday. To his left is airport director Shaul Hazan.

Knesset panel discusses Amir fan club

THE Knesset Education Committee yesterday lent its support to Education Minister Zevulun Hammer's decision to set up a committee to investigate support for assassin Yigal Amir in the schools...

Shmaryahu Ben-Tzur (National religious Party), on the other. The two religious MKs were furious at Chazan's charge that all political violence in recent years has emanated from the national religious camp...

Micha Goldman and Rafi Eini (Labor) all said they were certain such phenomena existed in non-religious schools as well, and therefore recommended that Hammer's committee investigate the entire school system...

Stone-throwing youth released in plea bargain

Eda Haredit proclaims ban on violence in court pact

A 15-year-old haredi youth who has been in jail for the past month on suspicion of stone-throwing was released yesterday as part of a plea bargain. The boy was arrested on July 20 for allegedly throwing stones during a demonstration on Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan...

EVERLYN GORDON and Kim announced, the dozens of haredim waiting outside the courtroom burst into song. However, bitterness was rampant. Rabbi Meir Elbaz, head of the yeshiva where the boy studied, charged that the youth had been held as a hostage for good behavior by the haredim...

Under the plea bargain, the boy admitted his guilt and will now be sent for evaluation by the state's youth probation department. In two months, the court will convene to decide on his sentence. When the boy's release was

'It is forbidden...'

SEVEN leaders of the haredi community in Jerusalem, who cooperate in the framework of the Organization to Preserve the Rights of the Religious and Haredi Public in Israel, yesterday signed a letter prohibiting acts of violence. The letter said that "the great ones and the lights of the generation and all the rabbis of all the branches of haredi Judaism totally forbid any act of violence, especially throwing stones at cars, pedestrians, or members of the security forces..."

IDF: Pi Gilot gas tanks must be put underground

THE Home Front Command yesterday demanded that the gas containers at the Pi Gilot tanker farm, near the Country Club junction north of Tel Aviv, be put underground, now that it has been decided not to close down the site. Lt.-Col. Shaul Guy, head of the Center for Hazardous Materials in the Home Front Command, told reporters yesterday that by putting the gas tanks underground a disaster could be prevented in the event of an accident or attack...

New early check-in to open at Ben-Gurion

HAIM SHAPIRO BEGINNING tomorrow, a new early check-in service will be available at Ben-Gurion Airport for El Al and eight other airlines. The move is part of an effort to reduce delays caused by pre-flight security checks, the Airports Authority announced yesterday. The service, which is to function from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. on weekdays, and from the end of Shabbat and holidays until 11 p.m., is to be located in Terminal 2, near the Arkia terminal...

UK teenager wins Olympiyeda

JUDY SIEGEL UNDERSTANDING the scientific principles behind sonic booms, tuning forks and loud speakers last week earned 14-year-old Aaron Krom the top prize in the Olympiyeda, the seventh annual competition organized by Haifa's Recanati National Science Museum. Krom, the son of a pediatrician and a university lecturer (in geology and oceanography) from Leeds, England, plans to spend some of the NIS 7,500 prize to upgrade the home computer he shares with his family. Krom beat out five Israelis and two North Americans in the final contest, which was taped at Golan-Global Studios in Neveh Ilan and will be broadcast on Educational TV in a few weeks. The runner-up was Hillel Gueta of Kfar Sava, who scored 85 points compared to Krom's 88. The second-youngest in the finals, Krom overcame 1,000 participants in the first preliminary exam and 80 in the second. Twenty-one of those, including the Israelis, participated in a preparatory workshop at the Technion and, based on their scores, eight finalists were chosen. All of them had studied a 13-page, fact-filled "Green Book" on the topic of "sound and hearing." Krom says the material he studied was interesting and went into greater depth than his science class at Leeds Grammar School. He would like to compete in next year's competition as well, "if they will let a former winner participate." Krom, who wants to be a scientist when he grows up, lived in Israel from the time he was a few months old until the age of eight. He learned about the competition from one of the Americans involved in finding contestants. Krom says he eventually would like to settle here. His Hebrew was meager before his arrival but, following close contact with the Israeli contestants, it improved. He says he was "very impressed" by the hands-on National Science Museum, located in the majestic building that formerly housed the Technion. Leeds has nothing like it, he says.

OUTSTANDING RECITALS in JERUSALEM. Recitals by Daniel Barénboim, Sharon Kam, Tokyo String Quartet, Paata Borcheuladze, Radu Lupu. Includes Hebrew text and program details.

Clinton marks birthday with a bash

HARRY F. ROSENTHAL
NEW YORK

RE-ENERGIZED by his vacation, President Clinton burst full-blown into his campaign mode with a showbiz 50th birthday party and other events to raise \$10 million for Democrats and subtly accentuate his age difference with Bob Dole.

He told a \$1,500-a-person reception that as bad as it is to be a half-century old, he is comforted that ex-Beatles Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr are older.

"This is your birthday present," he said. "You get a presidential election where you don't have to guess."

Joined by first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea, Clinton stood next to a huge birthday cake in the shape of an American flag. Clinton tried to blow out all 50 candles but finally finished with Chelsea's help.

When he stepped to the microphone to speak, a protester held up a poster condemning the welfare bill that Clinton has pledged to sign.

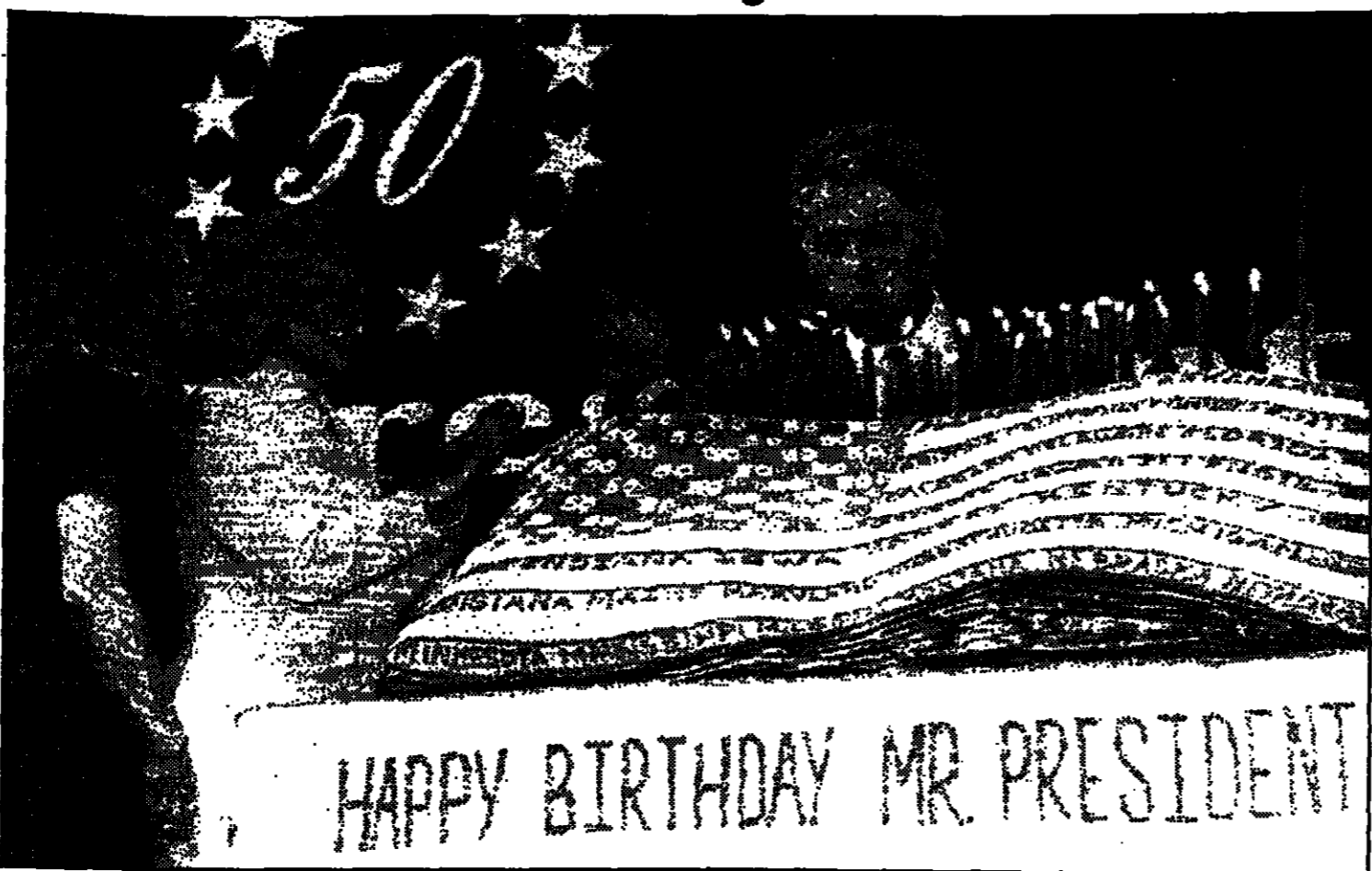
Some people in the crowd began to boo the protester, but Clinton said, "Wait. They got their message. We heard them. Give them an applause and let them go."

Clinton, whose birthday was yesterday, is among 3 million born in Year One of the baby boom - the sudden increase in births after the end of World War II.

Clinton is the most prominent American of the baby boom generation - some 76 million people born between 1946, the first full year after the end of World War II, and 1964.

The changes in retirement, health and long-term care pre-empted by the aging of this large segment of the population have been likened to the effect on America wrought by the massive waves of immigrants arriving at the turn of the century.

Dole, the Republican nominee.



US President Bill Clinton tries to blow out all 50 candles of his birthday cake at a party in New York on Sunday night as his wife Hillary and his daughter Chelsea look on.

Clinton rejected suggestions that Dole can make headway by raising questions about the president's character.

"I don't think the Republicans can damage my character... They can attack my reputation... but not my character," said Clinton, adding that "God is the ultimate judge on character."

Clinton also strongly defended his wife against what were perceived widely as personal attacks at last week's Republican convention in San Diego.

Clinton's birthday party, in Radio City Music Hall, was being carried by satellite to 80

cities, each with its own entertainments. There were two other fund-raisers to mark the birthday, a reception and a late dinner.

Yesterday Clinton and the first lady were flying to Tennessee to join Vice President Al Gore and his wife, Tipper, in symbolically helping rebuild Salem Baptist Church in Fruitland, one of 70 black churches burned in a rash of fires. Mrs. Gore has the same birthday as Clinton; she will be 48.

Tickets for the Radio City show went for \$250 each, with the money going to the Democratic National Committee

to help in election contests across the country. Tickets to the dinner were going for up to \$15,000 a plate.

As mistress of ceremonies, actress Whoopi Goldberg was presiding over a show featuring each of the decades of Clinton's life.

The 1940s were represented by Tony Bennett; the 1950s by rocker Jon Bon Jovi; the 1960s by Aretha Franklin and Smokey Robinson; the 1970s by Carly Simon; the 1980s by Kenny Rogers and Jennifer Holliday; the 1990s by country music singer Shania Twain. (AP)

NATO blows up cache of contraband Serb ammo

KURT SCHORK
SARAJEVO

NATO troops began blowing up a cache of hundreds of tons of contraband Bosnian Serb munitions yesterday, implementing "Operation Volcano" despite a firestorm of Serb criticism and written threats.

Cloudy, rainy weather delayed the operation by hampering aerial security. But precautions around the demolition site paid off when NATO troops discovered a shepherd wandering near one of the blast areas and took him to safety.

"The first series of three blasts have gone off and another three are scheduled for later today," NATO spokesman Major Brett Boudreau said in Sarajevo.

Boudreau estimated that between 15 and 30 tonnes of material was destroyed in the three blasts, most of it mines.

NATO expects it will take almost a week to collect and destroy all the munitions found stored in Margetici, near Sokolac east of Sarajevo, on August 5 in violation of last November's Bosnian peace accord.

NATO sources said engineers were burying the material in pits under a meter of earth to force the blast down, thus containing the sound and debris.

Burly French and Italian NATO troops, muscles bulging, spent hours loading hundreds of boxes of ammunition and mines onto trucks for transport to the demolition pits.

NATO troops upgraded their protective clothing because of a threat made in a number of leaflets, written in English and distributed in Sokolac at the weekend.

The commander of NATO-led ground forces in Bosnia, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Walker, met Bosnian Serb acting president Bijana Plavsic in Pale.

"Mrs. Plavsic disowned the threats and said they did not represent her government's position," Major Boudreau explained.

But Boudreau added there had been "a vacuum of cooperation" from the Bosnian Serb Army. (Reuters)

No Serb military representative attended the Plavsic meeting. Yesterday General Walker received a letter from Bosnian Serb Army Chief of Staff Zdravko Tolimir asking that Operation Volcano be called off.

NATO sources said Walker would reply to the letter but that the destruction of Serb munitions would continue.

"I think the best that we can hope for from the Serbs under the circumstances is a compliant silence," said a NATO officer who asked not to be named.

Under the terms of the Dayton peace agreement, all weapons and ammunition storage sites were supposed to have been declared and submitted for NATO inspection months ago.

Having determined that the Margetici site was unauthorized, NATO decided to destroy the contents, including at least 300 tons of small arms ammunition, anti-tank and anti-personnel mines.

The episode is an embarrassment to the Bosnian Serb army, which has prided itself through war and peace on defying Western military forces whenever and wherever possible.

But the 53,000-strong NATO-led peace force in Bosnia was blocked from inspecting another Serb military site just a week ago not far from Margetici - also in violation of the Dayton accord - and is in no mood to play games.

To destroy the ammunition and protect Serb civilians, NATO dispatched a multinational force of between 1,500 and 2,000 soldiers, led by French and Italians, into the Margetici area.

Scores of NATO vehicles choked the main road, rumbling toward a forward operation base being set up in a field near Margetici. Troops, vehicles and containers poured onto the site, which bristled with communications antennae. NATO helicopters thundered in and out of an adjacent field. (Reuters)

Ex-South African leaders accept blame for apartheid crimes

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - South Africa's former president F.W. de Klerk yesterday accepted blame for apartheid crimes under minority white rule and one general admitted there had been "gross violation of human rights".

General Constand Viljoen, former chief of the apartheid-era defense force and now leader of the right-wing Freedom Front

party, told Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Commission: "We certainly made a grave mistake when we allowed our political leaders to ignore the need for a timely settlement (with blacks) so we take collective responsibility for the situation that developed."

Viljoen, saying he represented "ethnic Afrikaners" pressing for self-determination within South

Africa, said the refusal of the then ruling National Party to address the demands of blacks "invited" the African National Congress to take up arms and forge an alliance with Communists.

"I will not attempt to rationalize what is generally called gross violation of human rights... They were wrong," he said.

Viljoen's presentation to the "truth commission" was the first of a series due to be made this week by political parties seeking to explain their actions during the apartheid years.

De Klerk, current leader of the National Party and the country's last white president, said in a television interview yesterday: "I'm looking forward to the opportunity to make a submission, to put what happened from our vantage point in the proper context. Part of that will also be to

accept overall responsibility for many things which went wrong." The National Party implemented apartheid when it took office in 1948 but de Klerk began dismantling it in 1990, paving the way for the first all-race elections in April 1994 which President Nelson Mandela's ANC won by a landslide.

Mandela set up the truth commission with the aim of healing the wounds of apartheid by exposing the dirty tricks and suffering of all sides during the struggle between liberation movements and the white-minority government.

Viljoen was accompanied by General Tienie Groenewald, a former military intelligence chief who was acquitted earlier this year on murder charges arising from the 1987 massacre of 13 blacks in the KwaZulu-Natal hamlet of KwaMakutha.

'WASP' coiner dies

BOSTON (AP) - E. Digby Baltzell, a sociologist who coined the term WASP for the white Anglo-Saxon Protestant people known as the US elite, died of a heart attack. He was 80.

The longtime University of Pennsylvania professor died at Brigham and Women's Hospital. A WASP himself, Baltzell was credited with coining the term in his 1964 book, *Protestant Establishment: Aristocracy and Caste in America*.

The term appeared only in the book's tables, as an abbreviation. But it caught on.

In the book, he argued that white Anglo-Saxon Protestants were losing power because they were not willing to let minorities, especially Jews, into their class.

"He was profoundly concerned with American leadership," said Harold Bershad, a professor of sociology at the University of Pennsylvania and a colleague of Baltzell's for more than 30 years.

"The sources of that leadership historically have come from the upper class, and he saw the upper class as deteriorating and wanted to re-invigorate it by bringing people from other classes into leadership in society," Bershad said.

Baltzell taught at the school from 1947 until his retirement in 1986.

Australian rioters storm parliament over cuts

CANBERRA (Reuters) - Demonstrators stormed Australia's parliament and clashed with police yesterday as a protest against labor reforms and government spending cuts turned violent on the eve of the 1996/97 budget presentation.

Hundreds of people wielding sledgehammers and a makeshift battering ram smashed through glass doors at the front of the building and battled police in the public foyer for about two hours.

The protesters chanted "Johnny, we're coming to get you," referring to Prime Minister John Howard, and several got to within 100 meters of his office deep inside the building.

Police using riot shields pushed the protesters out after reinforcements arrived at Parliament House, one of Australia's busiest tourist attractions.

"We had no idea this was going to happen," said police superintendent Peter McDonald after officers arrested some 30 protesters.

One demonstrator threw acid on a policeman, burning his face, and several other police and protesters were injured in scuffles and by glass and other debris, McDonald said.

Up to 15,000 demonstrators from unions, Aboriginal groups, students, welfare and other community organizations had gathered outside par-

liament to protest the government's planned \$3.15 billion (NIS 10b.) in annual spending cuts expected in the 1996/97 budget to be released today.

Howard condemned the rioting and said he would not be swayed by violence. "I want to make it very clear to those involved in that violence and to the Australian people that never under any circumstances will my government buckle to physical threats or behavior of that kind," Howard said.


"What occurred here today was un-Australian, it was ugly, it endangered the physical well-being of men and women in the Australian Federal Police, Parliament House staff and the protective services," he said.

"It is a very sad and unhappy day in the life of the parliament, and those responsible for today's demonstration should feel utterly ashamed of themselves."

One protester who broke into the building said the demonstrators were angry at the spending cuts and the policies of the conservative government, which was elected in March.

"I'm here today because the government's done the wrong thing by us," said Marshall Bell, who said he was protesting as a unionist and an Aboriginal.

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Belgians blast justice system

News agencies
BRUSSELS

AUTHORITIES searched for two kidnapped girls yesterday as shocked Belgians blasted the justice system for putting a convicted rapist back on the streets before his sentence was done.

Facing a wave of public anger at the leniency of laws on convicted pedophiles, Justice Minister Stefan de Clerck pledged yesterday to make it harder for them to be released from jail early.

"A prison commission will now be established to look at all these sort of delicate files. Only if there is unanimous agreement could there possibly be an early release," De Clerck said.

Rapist Marc Dutroux led police to two abducted, sexually abused girls and the bodies of two slain 8-year-olds before confessing he was also involved in the kidnapping of two other teenagers.

Investigators hope Dutroux's confessions will help solve more than a dozen kidnapping cases believed linked to a pedophile ring.

In addition to Dutroux, three others, including his second wife Michele Martin, have been arrested. Authorities are investigating whether the sexual abuse and kidnapping cases are linked to an international network.

Dutroux would still be in prison for raping underage girls had he not profited from Belgium's early-release program.

Efforts centered yesterday on finding two teen-age girls who Dutroux admitted he kidnapped last year. Hope remains they might still be alive.

Digging for more bodies at several properties owned by Dutroux in southern Belgium stopped after none were found.

The population's horror was sparked by the grisly discovery of the tied-up remains of the two children late Saturday and Dutroux' testimony during interrogations.

"Bring me a girl and you'll get 50,000 francs (NIS 5,000)," Dutroux told accomplices before the two 8-year-olds were kidnapped last year and subsequently murdered, according to investigating magistrate Michel Bourlet.

When accomplices brought him the two, Dutroux became enraged because the construction of a secret, 4-by-3-meter secret concrete cellar in his house some 60 km south of Brussels was not finished.

Dutroux said the two children started to die early this year after he was sent to prison for theft in December and an accomplice failed to feed them.

He said he killed an accomplice, Bernard Weinstein, out of revenge and buried him with the children in a garden of a property in a nearby village. It was not clear what action the revenge was for.

"Julie and Melissa are the victims of organized pedophilia, sacrificed while skepticism reigned," the parents of victims Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo said in a joint statement.

Gino Russo, Melissa's father, charged that his daughter and her friend were the victim of "administrative stupidity" because Dutroux was released early from prison.



A group of Chechen women pray for peace at a rally in the village of Alkhan-Yourt yesterday. (Reuters)

Russians launch assault on Grozny

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian forces began storming rebel-held positions in the Chechen capital Grozny yesterday evening, Ekho Moskvyy radio quoted separatist spokesman Movladi Udugov as saying.

The report, following gunfire that echoed around the city despite a truce agreed by separatists and the Russian forces, could not be immediately confirmed.

The radio quoted Udugov as saying Russian forces had begun moving on Grozny from several directions about 7.15 p.m.

"Fighting is under way now," Udugov said, adding the rebels had beaten off one attack, destroying Russian armor and inflicting casualties. There was fierce fighting close to the city center, he said.

Udugov accused the Russians of violating a cease-fire reached on Saturday between the separatists and the Russian forces they drove out of the city earlier this month.

Sporadic fighting has been going on in the wrecked city since the truce was agreed.

The Kremlin meanwhile denied yesterday that President Boris Yeltsin had suffered heart problems as a result of his grueling election campaign and dismissed speculation about possible bypass surgery in a foreign clinic.

Yeltsin's press secretary Sergei Yastrzhembsky told a news conference that the latest in a long line

of media reports on the 65-year-old leader's condition was nothing but "rumor and conjecture."

Yeltsin has not appeared in public since his inauguration on August 9, but Yastrzhembsky said he has been doing paperwork every day at a residence near Moscow and did not plan any trips abroad. He said he had met the president recently.

"I can only repeat that the president is working every day for several hours with documents. I can also confirm that the president's handshake is rather firm," he said.

Aides have said Yeltsin suffered from "colossal weariness" after his election campaign and might need two months to fully recover.

Yeltsin is due to go on holiday soon, but Yastrzhembsky said he did not know exactly when Yeltsin would leave or where he would go. The president is expected to undergo routine medical checks during his holiday.

The US magazine Time said it had obtained an official Kremlin medical advisory that Yeltsin, who had two heart attacks last year, had suffered from heart problems again in the second half of June.

Time said the president had needed round-the-clock monitoring and the Kremlin was considering transferring him to a Swiss clinic for a bypass operation.

"This information is more rumor and conjecture concerning the state of the president's health,"

Yastrzhembsky said. Rumors about Yeltsin's health have surfaced with increasing frequency since he was first taken ill, unsettling markets and alarming his supporters in the West.

Russian plane crash kills 12

PETER GRESTE
BELGRADE

A Russian Ilyushin-76 heavy transport plane crashed near Belgrade airport in Yugoslavia early yesterday after turning back and attempting an emergency landing.

A spokesman for the plane's owners, the private Russian charter company Spair, said it appeared no one aboard had survived the crash. He said it had been carrying 10 crew and two other people accompanying the cargo, bound for Malta.

Within hours of the accident, a team of Russian investigators had flown in and begun sifting through the charred wreckage, Russian embassy officials said.

The team arrived from Moscow to join their Yugoslav counterparts probing for clues as to why the plane, which had circled Belgrade for 2 1/2 hours apparently using up fuel, came down 800 meters short of the runway at around 3.15 a.m.

The plane's huge tail - the only clearly recognizable section remaining of the aircraft - lay in a corn field on the fringe of Belgrade's civilian airport under heavy police guard.

Investigators and airport officials said it was still far too early

to say what had caused the accident, but the Yugoslav government's information secretary suggested that a complete failure of electrical power was the most likely cause.

"The pilot took off (from Belgrade) around midnight and about 15 minutes later he called Valjevo airport 100 km away to say he was losing all electrical power - lights, navigation, communications - everything, and was turning back," an air traffic control source said.

Residents of western Belgrade said the noise of the circling plane woke them in the early hours, prompting fears that it was flying so low it would hit one of the high-rise apartment blocks that dot the suburbs.

Witnesses said that, when the pilot tried a final approach, the plane thudded into the field just short of the runway.

"It burst into flames and burned for a very short time - only five or six minutes in a very strong blaze," said another air traffic controller who witnessed the crash. "There was a series of huge explo-

sions." A security official said the plane was loaded with "B-classified cargo - believed to be military supplies including ammunition."

The spokesman from Spair denied the report, however, insisting the Ilyushin was carrying 14.5 tons of car wheels and half a ton of rescue flares.

Local television showed nighttime pictures of the burning aircraft, with a series of small, rapid explosions coming from what appeared to be the fuselage.

Yugoslav authorities threw a tight security cordon around the crash site, with dozens of armed police patrolling the corn fields through the morning, as investigators combed through the still-smoking wreckage.

"The Yugoslav police won't even give officials of the Russian embassy - permission to go to the site of the accident," complained one Russian television journalist.

The Spair spokesman said the private charter company, based in the Russian Urals city of Yekaterinburg, was founded in 1990 with a fleet of 12 Soviet-built planes including two Ilyushin-76 cargo aircraft. (Reuters)

Report: Algerian terrorists massacre 63 over weekend

News agencies
LONDON

MORE than 100 Moslem militants armed with rifles, daggers and axes attacked two buses in Algeria over the weekend, killing at least 63 people, the Arabic daily Al-Hayat reported yesterday.

The respected London-based newspaper quoted witnesses as saying the attacks took place on a highway southeast of the capital Algiers. They told the newspaper that around 100 gunmen set up a fake roadblock and stopped two buses on the road that connects the provinces of M'Sila and Batna, southeast of the capital Algiers.

The attackers asked for the identification cards of the passengers, rounded up those whose hometown

was Batna, and then massacred them together, the newspaper quoted witnesses who were on one of the buses as saying.

The gunmen were armed with shotguns, rifles, knives and axes, and wearing "dirty uniforms" said the witnesses, who were on one of the buses.

Al-Hayat said that this was the first time that civilians were killed because they lived in one town. It speculated that the aim was to start trouble among Algeria's tribes.

On Sunday, an Algerian newspaper reported a similar attack by mil-

itants who stopped a bus Thursday and slit the throats of 17 passengers. None of the three attacks has been confirmed by authorities in Algeria. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the slayings.

The Armed Islamic group - the most violent of several militant factions trying to replace the Algerian government with strict Islamic rule - has been blamed for most past attacks on civilians.

More than 60,000 people have been killed since Algeria's insurgency began in January 1992 when the army-backed government canceled legislative elections that Islamic fundamentalist candidates were poised to win.

The Jerusalem Post
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for the Serb army, which has
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negotiations. Western military forces
have been unable to find any
ammunition and wherever possible,
to force the Serbs to comply with
the Dayton agreement. NATO
inspected another Serb mili-
tary base in Bosnia, but found no
ammunition and in no mood
to force the Serbs to comply with
the Dayton agreement.

which choked
the road and set up
barriers. NATO troops
were ordered to clear the
road and to force the Serbs
to comply with the Dayton
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over cuts

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Nazi hunter Streim dies, 64

LUDWIGSBURG (AP) - Alfred Streim, Germany's leading Nazi hunter who helped bring dozens of war criminals to justice, has died. He was 64.

The death of Streim, who headed the Central Office for the Prosecution of Nazi Crimes since 1984, was announced by his office yesterday. He was known to be suffering from diabetes.

The office in Ludwigsburg, near Stuttgart, was created in 1953 to coordinate legal efforts to hunt down Nazi war criminals.

Since its creation, the office has opened proceedings against more than 7,000 Nazi war criminals.

During his tenure as head of the office, Streim earned the reputation of a dogged prosecutor who pursued suspected criminals with determination. He often called for more efforts to bring remaining Nazi fugitives to justice.

One of his greatest successes was the rounding up of SS thugs who ran the death camp in Majdanek, Poland. He was decorated by the Polish state in April. The office is responsible for collecting evidence and initiating proceedings against suspected Nazi criminals. The evidence is then turned over to local prosecutors, who take the cases to court.

Queen considering major monarchy shake up

LONDON (AP) - Queen Elizabeth II is considering sweeping changes to the monarchy that include ending its public funding and modernizing the rules on who succeeds to the throne, the tabloid Sun reported yesterday.

Buckingham Palace confirmed that the queen, her husband Prince Philip and heir to the throne Prince Charles are engaged in important discussions with senior aides "on a wide range of policy areas" affecting the monarchy - but refused to specify.

"The discussion of strategic issues goes on regularly in this as in other organizations," said a Buckingham Palace spokeswoman.

The Sun, Britain's biggest-selling newspaper, said discussions could lead to the scrapping of payments from the public purse to the royal family, amounting to some 8.7 million pounds (NIS 43m.) a year.

The royal family also is considering proposals to remove the monarch as head of the Church of England, to allow women equal rights as heirs to the throne and to enable the monarch's heirs to marry Roman Catholics, The Sun said.

Constitutional expert Lord St. John of Fawsley said the debate "might have been brought on by

the family's recent troubles," including the divorces of Prince Charles and his younger brother, Prince Andrew.

But he added, "The queen is acting coolly, sensibly and rationally. She's looking to the future of the monarchy. She's 70 now and this is a good time."

The queen already has made concessions to critics who say that the monarchy is an unnecessarily expensive institution that is out of step with the times.

She has agreed to pay taxes, has taken most of her relatives off the public payroll, and has opened her accounts to public scrutiny.

But the royals' popularity has been badly shaken in recent years. Charles and Princess Diana, under pressure from the queen to resolve the troubles in their private lives, agreed to divorce after 15 years of marriage.

Diana immediately fell into a dispute with Buckingham Palace over the terms of the split.

Buckingham Palace says the monarchy is resilient enough to withstand change.

"It is worth pointing out that one of the reasons the monarchy has lasted for over 1,000 years is that it is able to adapt and change as necessary, whilst retaining the overwhelming public support it enjoys," said the spokeswoman.

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OPINION

THE JERUSALEM POST

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Follow Meretz's example

SUNDAY'S agreement on a division of labor between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy put an end to the latest coalition crisis. If the government is lucky, it might even have a week or two of peace before the next one erupts.

Levy and his Geshet faction have, of course, been among the worst offenders. It might have been possible to excuse Levy's grandstanding threats to resign if a ministry were not created for Ariel Sharon, as he clearly owed Sharon for the latter's successful efforts to get him reinstated in the Likud. However, this was not the case with last week's sulk, during which he went so far as to refuse requests from foreign ministers who wanted to visit Israel.

The situation would not be so terrible if Levy were the only bad apple in an otherwise stable coalition. But the religious parties have so far rivalled him in childish behavior. In particular, the lengthy squabble between Shas and the National Religious Party over the Religious Affairs Ministry - which resulted in weekly, and sometimes even daily, threats to quit the coalition by both parties - was nothing short of a disgrace.

While coalition disputes are inevitable, the triviality of these particular disputes is shocking - especially in light of the important issues now facing the country. Such pettiness might be understandable if the government had nothing important to do for the next four years. However, according to these parties' own definition, the government has inherited major catastrophes on every front which require urgent attention.

To threaten to bolt the coalition over issues of petty personal prestige, when this could mean the government's collapse and an end to any possibility of dealing with issues of national importance, demonstrates a truly appalling level

of political immaturity. What it indicates is that none of these parties care a whit about any issue on the national agenda. For them, politics is not about dealing with the nation's problems, it is merely a way of stroking their MK's egos with ministerial positions and funneling money to their own institutions.

This spectacle is particularly disappointing in light of the example set by the last government - and Meretz in particular - of what coalition unity could accomplish. Meretz sacrificed both its own prestige and many of the issues dear to it for the sake of what it considered the most important goal, the peace process. It allowed Shulamit Aloni to be unceremoniously dumped as education minister at Shas's demand; it also gave in to Shas on many issues of religious legislation. It was only this loyalty which enabled the government to push through the highly controversial Oslo accords, and thereby radically alter the political face of Israel in three short years.

Half of the present coalition appears to have learned a lesson from Meretz. Isomet leader Rafael Eitan has been particularly impressive in this regard, accepting two minor portfolios - agriculture and energy - without a murmur. The two political newcomers in the coalition, Yisrael Ba'aliya and the Third Way, have also so far refrained from any threats or ultimatums. If the rest of the coalition could bring itself to behave equally responsibly, the Netanyahu government might be able to implement a revolution as profound as that of the previous government over the next four years. A united coalition could enact sweeping economic reform, bring a healthy note of realism into negotiations with the Palestinians and Syria, and take steps to improve Jewish education and deepen the Jewish identity of Israel's secular population. All of these are goals which the various coalition members themselves describe as crucial.

However, nothing of significance can be achieved by a government which must devote most of its energy to putting out coalition fires. So far, Levy and the religious parties have left the government little time for anything else.

If four years of sitting in opposition and, in their own words, watching the country career toward disaster was not enough to make these political infants grow up, it seems that nothing short of a miracle will do the trick. Unless such a miracle occurs, the voters who put Netanyahu in power have little to look forward to but four years of endless crises and no achievement, to be followed by Labor's return to power on a backlash of disgust.



When treaties do not bind

Almost immediately after taking office, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu placed inappropriate and needless limitations on his freedom of action as far as foreign policy is concerned.

Not only was this pronouncement hasty and inapt, it was totally unnecessary. For on this matter Netanyahu is wrong, dangerously wrong.

He did of course make the reservation that honoring agreements is contingent on full reciprocity in the fulfillment of mutual obligations. But here again he is in error. There are some agreements which governments, especially democratic governments, are bound to repudiate regardless of the other party's behavior.

The Oslo Agreement, which was initiated exactly three years ago, is one of these agreements, and its repudiation is not the right of the present government but its democratic duty.

Leaders are not free to commit their people irrevocably to any obligation that may take their fancy, certainly not those which jeopardize the capacity to provide the nation with good government and protection. Clearly, if any elected leader feels that the policy of his predecessors endangers this, it is his duty to reject the continuation of such a policy.

Honoring the Oslo accords definitely precludes any possibility of providing protection and good government for the country. As such, it cannot be considered a binding treaty for the Netanyahu government. True, it may prove very difficult to explain to the international community why Israel cannot honor the former government's commitments. It will, however, be far more difficult to explain to the Israeli public (and history) why it can. For the implementation of these accords will render the Jewish state mil-

MARTIN SHERMAN

power stations, the sweet water system, the chief communications systems, centers of civilian government and military command, major cities, will all be within the range of simple, cheap weaponry, available to nongovernmental terrorist organizations (or "enemies of peace"), who could totally disrupt any semblance of social and economic routine in the nation's metropolis, turning Israel into a very unattractive venue for investment.

Honoring Oslo will mean abandoning Israel's most important sources of drinking water to Arab control. US News and World Report in December 1991 aptly described the perils involved in such a measure, warning that uncontrolled Palestinian drilling of wells could cut off supplies to Israel and cause permanent ruin to Israeli water sources west of the Green Line.

The security hazards (both at the strategic and tactical levels) inherent in the implementation of the Oslo accords are so great, and the resources, both social and economic, required to address them so enormous, it makes the provision of protection and good government to the population totally unfeasible.

The rationale of the policy initiated by the previous government takes no account of "worst-case scenarios." Indeed, its success is totally dependent on the occurrence of the "best-case scenario." In a world of inherent uncertainty, this is unconscionable recklessness. It is a policy which far exceeds any reasonable risk that a responsible government can legitimately ask its nation to bear. It is thus a policy that must be abandoned.

Convincing the world of this is the single most important challenge facing Netanyahu. He has no margin of error, no room for failure. For failure will spell doom for Israel and the end of the 100-year dream of Jewish independence.

The writer teaches political science at Tel Aviv University.

Thus the "enemies of peace" could easily infiltrate by night, perpetrate acts of terror and withdraw under cover of darkness. This possibility will of course oblige Israel to take measures to seal the border. For a country whose army relies heavily on reserves, this constitutes a crippling social and economic burden.

Honoring Oslo will mean that the entire Israeli infrastructure will be under the control (in terms of fire, observation and optical and electronic surveillance), of whoever occupies the hills of Samaria and Judea, which command the coastal lowlands from Haifa Bay to the environs of Ashdod, much as the Golan Heights command Galilee and the Hula Valley.

Airfields - military and civilian - principal sea ports, the main arterial road, railways, major

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Different road signs

DAN LEON

THE REACTION of the haredim to the High Court judgment on Bar-Ilan is more frightening than the massive illegal demonstrations, or seeing youngsters and adults hurling stones and cursing.

They are not the first sector in the Israeli population to clash with the police and to insult them with cries of "Nazis" or "police state." But

Unhappily our voice is lost in the extreme clamor. Two years ago, one of the most experienced observers of the scene wrote that the bottom line is clear to all that the road will be closed. The only question is when.

Journalist Ilan Shohar pointed out that the haredim constitute 27 to 30 percent of the Jewish population of Jerusalem and have 29 percent (nine out of 31) of the places on the city council. Sixty percent of the capital's kindergarten children are haredim and by the year 2010, according to the Jerusalem Institute for Israeli Studies, 40% of the Jerusalem Jews will be haredim.

(In fairness it should be noted that there is a school of thought which does not see such demographic projections as reliable because of the unknown variables involved.)

Rehov Bar-Ilan is important as a symbol rather than for its own sake. The non-observant object to the closing of a major public artery: the haredim want to spend the Shabbat in their own way in an area where nearly all the population is now haredim. Their case as such is a strong one.

But the crux of the matter is that the bitter dispute over the road has engendered a far more important, even crucial, question, one which dwarfs the matter of the road itself and this is: Who is authorized to make the decision?

The author is the co-managing editor of the Palestine-Israel Journal.

Undeserved compliment

YOSSI BEILIN

US vice-presidential candidate Jack Kemp, in a speech scattered with Yiddish words to a Jewish Republican forum attached to the party convention, said that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu reminds him of former American presidents Ronald Reagan and Abraham Lincoln. The comparison is half right.

Netanyahu has a long way to go before he can be compared to a great president like Lincoln, a self-made champion of ethics who took the historic decision to put an end to slavery and create a nation with a bloody civil war. I doubt if anyone will try to compare Netanyahu to Lincoln again.

But wasn't it Lincoln who said, "you can't fool all the people all the time," and wasn't it Reagan who proved him wrong?

Reagan was one of the most pathetic US presidents: an ex-actor who could still remember a few lines from his old films, who told a lot of jokes about Russians and who most Americans saw as a combination of a Wild West hero and a lovable old grandfather.

He was the sound-bite president who promised that the weight of government could be removed from the public. He promised to decrease taxes, ensure social justice and defeat the East, and then left his heirs a huge deficit which they were unable to handle, more than five million homeless, shocking social inequality and cities with a level of poverty which could compete with the Third World.

And, amazingly, in spite of all this he was elected to a second term at the age of 73. The nation was with him, Margaret Thatcher found him a congenial ally, the USSR collapsed and his jokes about the Russians became public property. His wife Nancy decided the future with her astrological charts, and the friendly old man spent his time receiving boots and other gifts from friends and going to meetings where he could give the clicking cameras the colorful stories they love.

HOW CAN we explain this? Why does a whole party still miss such a character? Look at the personal election system: look at the superficial election campaign; look at the party conventions with the clouds of balloons, the one-liners, and the jokes at the expense of this

Netanyahu has a long way to go before he can be compared to Lincoln

other candidate; look at the electronic media where every moment counts and all that's needed is a few pithy remarks. These are the forces that permit a terrible leader to become a successful candidate. Who cares about the federal deficit or social inequality if you can tell a good joke?

Lincoln would never have been elected in the primaries. Before he got his point across, the television news would have gone on to the next item. This is not the age of Lincoln, it is the age of Reagan, the age of Being There.

Promise everything to everybody, keep a few promises but not too many, say a few clever remarks, pat people on the back, state the obvious in a loud voice - that's Reagan, that's Netanyahu, that's lots of other candidates who care far more about how they look on the television screen than what they say.

Kemp was right to compare Netanyahu to Reagan, but the second half of the comparison was quite wrong. The writer, a former minister, is a Labor MK.

POSTSCRIPT

A CONVICT at Ayalon Prison, took revenge on his judges from his jail cell - amusing himself with investigative work that would do a policeman proud.

Oren Avraham, 22, jailed for three years on fraud charges, would call police from the jail, pretending to be one of them, to get them to give him secret computer data on the judges.

He had pizza sent to the judges on their own credit cards. He charged some of the calls he placed on the phone card of "one judge."

He even ordered air tickets and charged them to a senior official in the Prime Minister's Office.

Finally, under pressure from police and judges, Avraham ceded his right to an hour's daily phone access. He agreed to use the phone only to call his mother.

"The biggest mistake," wrote Yedioth Aharonot journalist Bookie Nach, commenting on the story, "is that they allow him to rot in jail instead of putting his genius to work for the state of Israel."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TEL AVIV SHABBAT

Sir, - Whilst ideally Shabbat should be observed according to the Torah, i.e. from sunset Friday to nightfall Saturday, at least Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Street residents are meant to get some Shabbat peace. All along it, there are yellow signs clearly stating that "the road is closed to vehicular traffic from 8 a.m. on Saturday or Holiday morning - until the Shabbat or Festival goes out." The police put up barriers at 8 a.m. and they used to stay up until at least 7 p.m. in the summer.

But there has been a recent tendency for the barriers to be removed earlier and earlier, and now traffic flows en masse along Dizengoff already at 3 or even 2 p.m., ruining the Shabbat atmosphere. I did not come on aliyah to the Jewish State to live in a Tel Aviv where there is blatant Shabbat profanation, as in Red Haifa, where even the public buses run. GILLIAN GOLDBERG Tel Aviv.

EDITORIALS

Sir, - As a frequent visitor to Israel and constant reader of The Jerusalem Post, I am disappointed with your editorials since David Bar-Ilan took up his new post. Neither the content nor the literary style of his successors begin to match Bar-Ilan's incisive commentary on events. Whether I agree or not, he is a writer it is worth the effort to confront. J. D. NEUMANN Jerusalem (New York).

PRESIDENTIAL PARDONS

Sir, - The Jerusalem Post of August 8 reports that B'tselem has decided to ask foreign countries to arrest the General Security Service agent Ehud Yatom, who admitted to killing the two captured Arab bus-jackackers in 1984. The agent, presently in Switzerland, had been pardoned by then-President Chaim Herzog. B'tselem feels that "excessive tolerance shown by the government" perpetuates the view that Israel's security justifies the taking of human life. Can we therefore expect B'tselem to ask for the arrest of the Arab killers of innocent Israeli civilians who were recently pardoned by President Weizman? MOSHE KAHAN Efrat.

INJUSTICE

Sir, - Please, please spare us your blatantly hypocritical, self-righteous, sermonizing editorials. How could you feign moral indignation for US President Clinton's failure to invoke clemency for Jonathan Pollard ("American injustice," July 29) while uttering not a word, editorially, about Ehud Yatom.

You do tremendous disservice to Mr. Pollard's eminently just cause by whining, in effect, "eww, look at what the goyim are doing to us again." Remember Mr. Yatom? His is the story you keep burying in your back or middle pages while the rest of the Israeli media (no doubt, incorrigible leftists) have been covering, analyzing and editorializing on it ever since it broke.

American injustice? Where's Israeli justice when Yatom, a former General Security Services agent, admits to having personally and lethally smashed the skulls of two bound, gagged, and blindfolded (terrorist) prisoners upon the direct orders of the chief of the service. He further admits to participating in a wise conspiracy not only to cover up the crime, but to frame the military commander of the operation (then General, now Defense Minister) Yitzhak Mordechai. All those involved in the murders, cover-up and criminal conspiracy to subvert justice are then pardoned (never even charged) by then-president Chaim Herzog who - like President Clinton regarding Mr. Pollard - cites reasons of "national security" as an excuse to perpetrate vulgar injustice. He who seeks justice must do justice. What have you as editors, journalists, Jews, done regarding our own "national security" cases which cry out for justice, as in Mr. Yatom's case?

Stop perpetually whining about the "goyim" when you cannot stomach taking off the kid gloves in bringing Jewish state-sponsored goons to justice. PAUL KORDA Mevaseret Zion.

SPORTS BINGE

Sir, - The sports binge is over at last - or is it? Do we now have to put up with the inquest? Perhaps we may now return to the advertised programs on radio and TV without constant disruptions. First it was football, then tennis, then the Olympics. What do we have to look forward to now, small racing perhaps, or frog jumping? The mind boggles! DEANA WHINE Kfar Sava.

WISHFUL THINKING

Sir, - Seldom does one come across such a wild mixture of wishful thinking, distortion of reality, confusion between cause and effect and sheer fantasy as in the article "Israel can remove the 'Zionist threat'" by Eric Lee (August 2). According to Mr. Lee, Arab dictatorships exist only because of the conflict with Israel and once peace is achieved, they will collapse like the Soviet dictatorship collapsed after the end of the cold war.

Of course, Lee confuses cause and effect: first the Soviet dictatorship collapsed, then, as a consequence, the cold war ended. As to the Arab dictatorships, they existed before the State of Israel was founded and have nothing to do with the Israel-Arab conflict. Democracy is completely alien to Arab society, and if by miracle, free elections were possible, the result would be a fundamentalist Moslem regime. While I appreciate the Post's policy of publishing various viewpoints, there must be a limit to deviation from reality. DR. JACOB ROSIN Netanya.

TV REVIEWS

Sir, - Really, Penny! I thought the job of Channel surfing was to comment on the caliber of television programs. Frankly, I'm not at all interested in whether you like sports or not (Time Out, August 2). If you find fault with the camera work, or commentary, that's legit, but any other comments are out of line. If you don't like sports, don't watch them. Ditto for your comments about Hollywood and Americans. Snide remarks about Hollywood, comments on the lunatic fringes anywhere (as if this difficult-to-live-in country is without its own), editorials of shows coming from America or Timbuktu, is not what your job is all about. The only opinion of yours that interests your readers is whether you think a show worthwhile watching and the reasons pro and con. Simple as that... no politics, no subjective, snide comments, etc. If that's not enough for you, then get yourself a column on the editorial pages. I don't suppose you'll take notice of what I've written, but then, what can be expected from someone who sits and watches the boob-tube day and night, week in and week out, for a living? D. MAYER Jerusalem.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: 'מלך מן האלוהים'

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Tuesday, August 20, 1996

Accent to fire 11% of staff

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

ACCENT Software has decided to lay off 17 of its 150 employees, following "disappointing" second-quarter results, company president and CEO Robert Rosenschein said yesterday.

The quarterly results reflect a sudden setback for Accent, which until recently was experiencing stunning success.

The Jerusalem-based multilingual software firm, also known as Kivun Computers, reported an increase in second-quarter net losses to \$6.09 million from \$1.06m in the corresponding period last year.

Revenues for the quarter were down 15% to \$1.29m, from \$1.52m in the same period in 1995. Revenues in the first quarter of 1996 totaled \$2.85m.

Rosenschein attributed the drop in revenues to the company's decision not to recognize potential revenues from an undisclosed customer that is still in its start-up phase. The company ordered more than \$1m worth of Accent's software, said Rosenschein, adding that he still expects the sale to go through.

In December, the financial magazine *Barron's* included Accent in its list of top 25 stocks for 1995, and a study done by Securities Data and quoted in *Time* maga-

zine rated Accent No. 7 in a list of 1995's 10 hottest Initial Public Offerings.

Accent experienced a 323% increase in its stock value between July, when the company went public, and December 1995.

The company's shares rose from \$6.50 last July, hitting an all-time high of \$34.25 in June. But in the last two months the company's stock price has continually fallen until bottoming out at \$14.625 on Friday, the day after second quarter results were released.

Rosenschein would not comment about the recent fall in stock prices.

Such roller-coaster rides are not uncommon for Israeli high-tech companies, said Zeev Holtzman, CEO of Giza, the Israeli affiliate of Alex Brown & Sons.

Although he could not comment specifically about Accent's recent tumble, Holtzman said that many Israeli companies experience such dramatic changes of fortune because investment bankers rush to take them public before they have demonstrated their ability to generate consistent revenues over a significant period of time.

Founded in 1988, Accent designs and develops multilingual Internet and text processing software products.

Cool reception for safety-net tender at bond market

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

SELL orders for the Bank of Israel's safety-net tender were seven times higher than the NIS250 million worth of government bonds that the Bank of Israel purchased yesterday, as part of the provident fund and bond safety net which was agreed upon last week between the central bank and the Treasury.

Traders said the high volume of sell orders, which amounted to NIS1.7 billion, shows that the market continues to suffer from a confidence crisis.

The safety-net tender is designed to increase the liquidity on the bond market, which has suffered in recent months from intensified sales, stemming from accelerated provident-fund withdrawals.

On the bond market, trading opened with sell orders of some NIS440m for index-linked bonds, compared to purchase orders of

NIS120m.

At the end of trading, short-term, index-linked bonds were mixed, while medium- and long-term bonds fell a moderate 0.25%-0.3%, despite the surplus orders.

The moderate prices may be an indication that the Bank of Israel intervened in trading and purchased additional bonds.

Dan Kiri, a trader for Bank Otzar Ha'Hayal, said he was under the impression that the market is still suffering from instability. "As long as there is no equilibrium between interest rates and foreign-currency rates we will continue to see high sell orders," he said.

The orders for the Bank of Israel's safety-net tender were given by four banks and stock exchange members. Orders

totaling NIS560m. were made at market prices or below the price at which the Bank of Israel agreed to purchase the bonds.

Most of the bonds purchased by the bank have a redemption range of six to 13 years. Two additional tenders, each for a total of NIS250m., will be held on Monday and Thursday next week. These are expected to increase the Bank of Israel's total bond purchases this month to NIS750m.

Last month the Bank of Israel purchased bonds worth NIS500m. Meanwhile, the share market regained its downward trend yesterday, losing some 2% of its value after moderate climbs at the start of the trading week.

Traders said the Claridge-Arison consortium's decision to withdraw from the tender to purchase Bank Hapoalim cast a discouraging shadow on the market.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Israel-North American Business Conference set for October: Top-level politicians, businessmen and officials will attend the first Israel-North America Business Conference, titled "The Fruits of Peace," scheduled for New York on October 8-10, and aimed at encouraging investments in Israel.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, who along with a host of other Israeli officials is scheduled to present a series of large-scale national projects, will chair the major plenum debates. Business-sector delegates to the conference will include Archer Daniels CEO Dwayne Andreas and Boston Properties chairman Mortimer Zuckerman. *David Harris*

Retail sales rose at a monthly 0.5 percent rate in June and July, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday. The monthly rate for the first seven months stood at 0.9%, with an annual rate over the same period of 11.5%. Annual growth last year totalled 9%. Food sales have slowed to a monthly 0.4% increase in June and July compared to an average 1.0% since January. *David Harris*

Rosen to meet with PA officials about environmental projects: Environment Ministry Director-General Nehama Ronen will meet representatives from the Palestinian Authority tomorrow to discuss joint ventures regarding environmental protection projects.

The meeting will address the main environmental problems affecting the West Bank and Gaza, including, sewage and garbage disposal, noise pollution and the transfer of toxic materials. They will also discuss the construction of Gaza's airstrip in the Dehanyia area and the building of a flour factory in Gush Katif. *Jennifer Friedlin*

Manufacturers concerned about decrease in export profits: The Manufacturers Association says it is becoming increasingly concerned by the decrease in manufacturing export profits. Textile and clothing exports were down two percent on the same period last year to \$494 million, according to the association. This follows three consecutive years of growth in the sector. *David Harris*

Kitan registers first loss in five years

COMPANY RESULTS
GALIT LIPKIS BECK

KITAN, a Cial subsidiary, yesterday reported its first operating loss in five years. The textile company reported a second quarter operating loss of NIS4.8 million, compared to a NIS20m. operating profit in the same period last year.

The company suffered a net loss of NIS3.1m., compared to a net profit of NIS14m. in the corresponding period last year.

In the first six months, net profits fell 85 percent to NIS4.1m. from NIS28m. Revenues fell 20% to NIS126m. in the second quarter. In the six month period, revenues fell 10% to NIS283m.

Management said lower earnings were due to a 15% drop in local market sales, to NIS120m. and a fall in sales to the export market to NIS16m. from NIS28m.

The drop in sales was due to a real erosion in export currencies and drop in demand, especially for colored cotton. Earnings were also hindered by the sector's exposure

to imports of thread, textiles and ready-made textile products.

First International Bank's two mortgage subsidiaries completed the quarter with a rise in earnings.

The First International Mortgage Bank, in which the First International Bank has an 88% share, completed the second quarter with a rise in net profit to NISS.04m. from NISS.17m. in the same period last year.

In the first six months, net profits grew 28.8% to NIS16.1m. Net return on equity, on an annual basis, rose to 11.3% from 9.5%.

Atzmaut Mortgage and Development, in which the First International Bank has a 79.1% equity holding, reported an increase in net profit to NIS3.57m. from NIS2.64m.

In the first six months, net profits grew 27.8% to NIS7.4m. Net return on equity on an annual basis rose to 12.6% from 10.8% in the same period last year.

Finance Committee delays approval of PA transfers

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Finance Committee once again refused to okay a change in the law governing tax transfers to the Palestinian Authority yesterday, this time due to a letter from Hadassah Hospital saying it was owed NIS 7 million by residents of the PA-administered territories.

The amendment is meant to bring Israel's tax transfer policy in line with the Oslo Accords, which require import tax revenues promised by Israel to the PA to be transferred every six days. The law passed by the previous government, however, authorized these transfers only once a month.

Though the committee has no problem with the change in principle, it refused to make it a few weeks ago because MKs objected to the use of the term "West Bank" in both the bill and the Treasury's accompanying explanatory letter.

The Treasury therefore replaced these words with the proper Israeli term - Judea and Samaria - and resubmitted the bill.

Yesterday, however the committee again deferred approval of the change because of the letter from Hadassah. Though the government regularly deducts monies owed by residents of the PA to government-owned bodies from the money it sends the PA, the committee was surprised to discover that no similar arrangement exists with respect to monies owed to private Israeli institutions, because the finance minister never published a regulation permitting such deductions.

The committee therefore announced it would not approve the change until the Treasury either publishes the regulation or comes up with a convincing reason for not doing so.



Filipino militant laborers picket in front of oil firm Caltex in Manila's financial district yesterday to denounce the recent hikes in oil prices resulting from the deregulation of the oil industry. The pump price of all gasoline rose by two U.S. cents to 38 cents per liter. (Reuters)

AT&T head Mandl leaves; triggers drop in shares

NEW YORK (Reuters) - AT&T Corp. said yesterday its president and chief operating officer, Alex Mandl, will leave the company to become the chairman and chief executive officer of a new communications venture.

Mandl's departure triggered a sell-off in the shares of the telecommunications giant, while it sparked a jump in the stock of Associated Group Inc., parent of his new employer, Associated Communications L.L.C.

AT&T fell \$1.375 to \$54.125 on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday.

Mandl, 52, was the architect of AT&T's 1994 acquisition of McCaw Cellular Communications Inc., and headed AT&T's long distance, wireless, on-line and multimedia service businesses before being appointed AT&T's president and chief operating officer.

Prior to joining AT&T in 1991, Mandl was chairman and chief executive officer of Sea-Land

Services Inc., the world's largest ocean transportation company.

Associated Communications plans to play a major role in providing broadband wireless multimedia local services in key US markets. It is owned by Pittsburgh-based Associated Group, which is engaged primarily in communications and related services.

The new venture is co-owned by Digital Services Corp., an affiliate of Telecom Ventures, L.L.C.

AT&T Chairman Robert Allen said he will take direct charge of Mandl's responsibilities while the company searches for a replacement. He said an external search is already under way and some leading candidates have been identified.

Allen said Mandl's departure would not affect the company's planned split-up. "AT&T is on schedule to complete its 'trivestiture' by the end of the year," he said in a statement.

Turkey to buy electricity from Iran

ANKARA (Reuters) - Turkey will soon begin buying electricity from Iran to help make up an expected power shortage, a senior official said yesterday.

"We will soon buy an initial 25 megawatts (MW) of power from Iran through existing lines," said

Ugur Dogan, undersecretary for the Energy Ministry. "Later in the year we will raise it to 100 MW."

He said Turkey would build another transmission line with Iran, which will have a 400 kilowatt capacity. "After building the new line and two transformer stations on both sides of the border, Turkey will be able to get as much as 720 MW from Iran," he said.

Turkey and Iran signed several deals last week during Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's visit to Tehran, including a \$23-billion gas deal under which Ankara would get Iranian gas for 22 years from 1999.

PA to unilaterally build Karni park on its land

DAVID HARRIS

PALESTINIAN development company PADICO signed a contract last week to construct the first PA industrial zone, following a Palestinian Authority decision to unilaterally proceed with the scheme and position it completely outside Israeli-controlled territory, PA sources yesterday said.

The decision to plow ahead with the park at Karni in Gaza comes amid a growing feeling among Palestinian officials that Israel and other donor countries are dragging their feet in contributing, said Administration Director of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PEDCAR) Muhammad Ishtayeh, last night.

The unilateral decision should come as a surprise to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, who met twice late last week to decide on Israel's policy on the issue.

Aides to the premier would not comment on the development, saying it is a matter for Sharansky's ministry, where no one was available for comment last night.

It is understood that the two favor the zone straddling the seam line, an idea they feel will alleviate security fears in central Israel.

The US and Israeli originally committed \$6 million and \$14m. respectively toward the Karni project.

"There was a need to develop both onsite and offsite, and therefore we have taken the initiative," said Ishtayeh, who represented the PA in last week's highest level, multi-party economic talks since Netanyahu's election in May.

Initial development of the indus-

trial zone entirely on the PA-controlled side is supported by US Undersecretary of Commerce Stuart Eizenstat.

"We must, must, must get this industrial zone off the ground," Eizenstat told reporters upon his return from a week-long visit to Israel, Jordan, Egypt and the PA earlier this month.

Eizenstat also indicated PADICO was close to signing the contract to develop and administer the zone.

The US vision is for the zone to house light industry run by American and Israeli textile and apparel companies, which would help ease the Palestinian econom-

ic losses due to the ongoing closure.

Eizenstat said the key is to begin work on the first phase of the project in Gaza immediately, and maybe at a later stage add a section within Israel.

PADICO, a development company funded by Palestinians such as the Sabbah and Masri families.

Last August PADICO published a list which included some \$1.4 billion in projects in which it is interested in being involved over the next few years.

These included the park and a further one in Nabulus, setting up a telecommunications company, developing hotels and resorts, and bolstering the Palestinian power grid.

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Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.125		
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.750	1.875	2.250		
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	1.000	1.125	1.500		
Yen (10 million yen)					
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)					
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (19.8.96)					
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS	Buy		Sell		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.5159	3.5727	3.07	3.23	3.5417
U.S. dollar	3.1274	3.1778	2.76	2.91	3.1500
German mark	2.0993	2.1322	1.83	1.97	2.1162
French franc	4.8383	4.9144	4.07	4.29	4.8710
Dutch florin	0.5140	0.5240	0.80	0.84	0.6188
Swiss franc	2.8936	2.9464	2.54	2.69	2.9188
Japanese yen (100)	1.8712	1.9014	1.63	1.73	1.8858
Dutch florin	2.5992	2.6310	2.24	2.35	2.4907
Swiss franc	0.4710	0.4795	0.46	0.49	0.4754
Norwegian krona	0.4862	0.4941	0.47	0.51	0.4888
Danish krone	0.5428	0.5516	0.47	0.51	0.4878
Finnish mark	0.9995	0.7108	0.83	0.88	0.9478
Canadian dollar	2.2765	2.3123	2.02	2.13	2.2017
Australian dollar	2.4724	2.5122	2.23	2.35	2.4907
S. African rand	0.8890	0.7002	0.62	0.70	0.8936
Swedish krona (10)	1.0188	1.0354	1.00	1.05	1.0287
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9829	3.0210	2.63	2.80	3.0058
Italian lira (1000)	2.0801	2.0834	1.93	2.08	2.0747
Jordanian dinar	4.3800	4.8500	2.02	2.18	4.5045
Egyptian pound	0.8900	0.9700	0.89	0.97	1.0001
ECU	3.8538	4.0178	3.43	3.67	3.8841
Irish punt	8.0219	8.1028	7.43	7.98	8.0576
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4806	2.5207	2.43	2.58	2.5001

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

הקדמה מן הלאה

Rockets trade 4 for Barkley

Cassell, Horry, Brown and Bryant to Suns

HOUSTON (AP) - The Houston Rockets are bidding to regain the NBA championship by trading for Charles Barkley, giving them another legitimate superstar to go with Hakeem Olajuwon and Clyde Drexler.

The Rockets, who actively pursued Barkley during the three months since their season ended short of a third straight NBA championship, announced a blockbuster trade yesterday in which they would get Barkley in exchange for four players.

The Rockets will send to Phoenix four players who produced 36 percent of their offense in the past season.

The Rockets will trade guard Sam Cassell and forwards Chaucky Brown, Mark Bryant and Robert Horry, four of their top seven players from last season, to the Suns.

Their combined salaries were within 15 percent of Barkley's \$4.6 million this season, meaning the trade works under NBA salary-cap rules.

The trade is subject to league approval and the players passing their physicals.

The trade was finalized when the Rockets agreed to add Bryant to the group of players to be traded.

With Barkley, the Rockets will have three future Hall of Famers, joining Olajuwon and Drexler.

The Rockets hope to acquire a veteran point guard via trade, perhaps before the end of the month.

Barkley, 33, is a 10-time All-Star. He comes off a consistent season in which he averaged 23.2 points, 11.6 rebounds and 3.7 assists, numbers that are almost exactly what he has averaged dur-

ing his 12-year NBA career.

With Barkley, Olajuwon and Drexler, the Rockets will have 37 years of NBA experience, four Olympic gold medals, three NBA championships and 30 All-Star appearances.

Cassell, 26, a 6-foot-3 point guard, averaged 14.5 points and 4.6 assists per game last season, despite missing more than a month after surgery March 2 on his right elbow. When he returned, he never recaptured the form he had before the surgery.

Cassell joins three other point guards on the Suns. Kevin Johnson is the incumbent, while Eliot Perry and rookie Steve Nash also play the position.

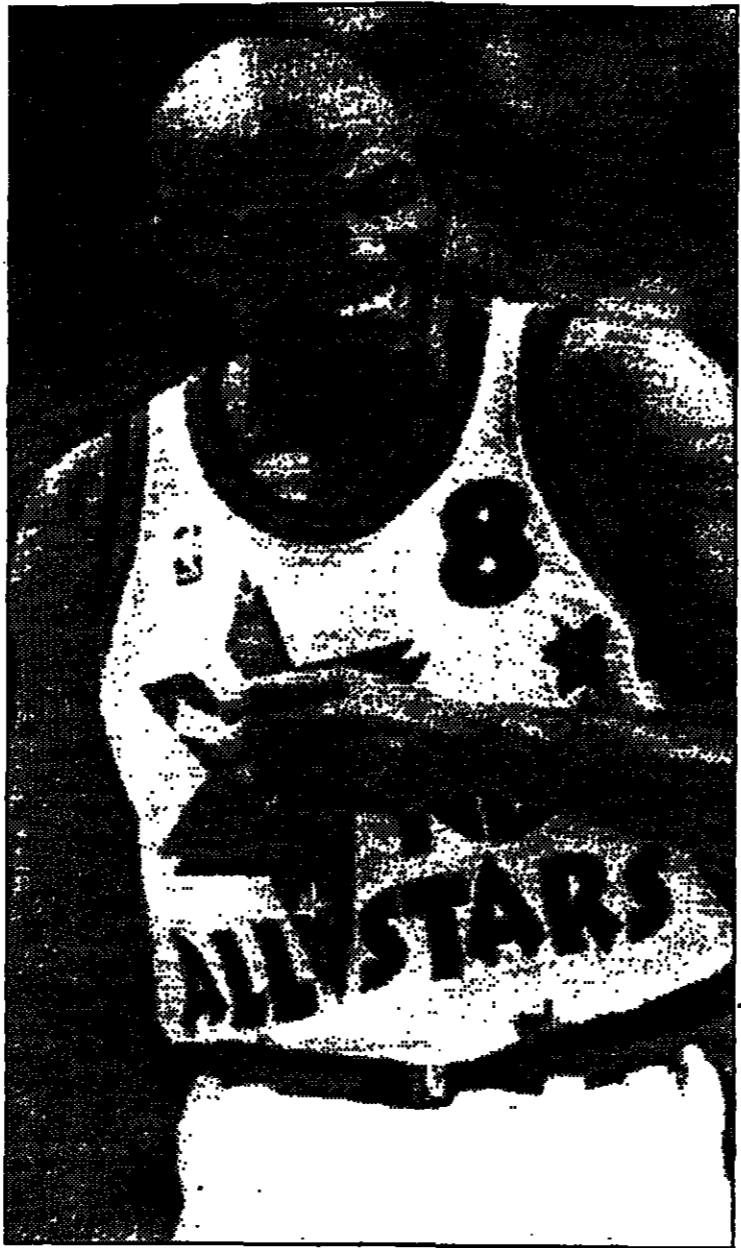
Horry, 25, was considered one of the up-and-coming stars of the NBA in his first two seasons with the Rockets, but he failed to make substantial improvement the past two years. He averaged 12 points and 5.8 rebounds last season, but shot just 41 percent from the field.

Bryant, 31, a 6-9 forward, was acquired last summer as a free agent from Portland. He averaged 8.6 points and 4.9 rebounds, and spent much of his time on the court playing center when Olajuwon needed a breather.

Brown was the only Rockets player who appeared in all 82 games this past season, starting them all. He joined the team in the 1994-95 season after putting in duty in the Continental Basketball Association.

All four players will become free agents at the end of the upcoming season unless they sign extensions with the Suns.

Barkley is under contract through the 1997-98 season.



THREE MUSKETEERS - Sir Charles joins Clyde the Glide and Hakeem the Dream.

Betar expected to end UEFA Cup hopes tonight

ORI LEWIS

BETAR Jerusalem completed its long journey close to the Arctic Circle yesterday. Now they prepare to complete an even more difficult task: to play Bodo/Glimt of Norway in a UEFA Cup preliminary round second-leg match tonight.

After the 5-1 drubbing the Jerusalemites suffered at Teddy Stadium two weeks ago, only a very large miracle will see a reversal of fortunes, as Betar looks to have completed its European escapade for another season.

With Ronnen Harazi a very reluctant traveler to northern Norway after expressing his wish to stay at

home and treat a knee injury, team morale hardly seems conducive for a miracle, and Betar would do well to shift its focus to its opening National League fixture against Maccabi Petah Tikva on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Maccabi Tel Aviv set off for Turkey yesterday in a bid to advance to the European Champions' League.

The Tel Avivians trail 1-0 against Fenerbahce of Istanbul after their first leg match in Tel Aviv two weeks ago. Since the Turkish team is usually a much stronger side at home, the task of overhauling the hosts' advantage seems slim.

Nat'l Stadium has new look

Bulgaria: Stoichkov will play against Israel after all

ORI LEWIS

THE Israel Football Association yesterday revealed the refurbishments carried out at the National Stadium at Ramat Gan, which has already reopened for action.

The stadium, which was closed for the past year, will be given its official send-off in the World Cup qualifier against Bulgaria on September 1. Some NIS 4.5 million were spent on improvements to the ground, including a completely new playing surface and plastic seating for the old eastern and southern stands.

Stadium manager Nir Parcelina reported that the grass surface of the pitch was reduced by about half, from 20 to 10.5 dunams, thus reducing maintenance costs. The under soil and drainage have also been refurbished and the surface contains both summer and winter grass, to give the pitch an all-year green look. The old stands are currently being turned from the familiar concrete grey to a colorful mixture as workers bolt down 30,000 plastic seats. IFA Managing

Director Ya'acov Erel said that by September 1, some 20,000 plastic seats will have been put in place, and when the job is complete, the seating capacity of the whole stadium will number 45,000.

Both FIFA and UEFA require all stadiums used for major soccer competitions to adhere to certain minimum standards. Plastic seats are one of the most stringent demands, which Erel estimated would cost about NIS 1.5 million. The IFA already has plans in place to rebuild the old part of the ground, which was built in the early 1950s by the Ramat Gan Municipality, but a quirk in land rights has prevented the plan to be put into action.

Half of the land is owned by Ramat Gan, which allowed the IFA to build the new 15,000-seat western stand in 1985, but the eastern part of the ground is owned by the Israel Lands Administration, which, according to IFA officials, is refus-

ing building permission for "unjustified reasons."

IFA Chairman Azrikam Milchan said yesterday that if and when the new section of the ground is completed, the seating capacity will rise to 60,000.

Meanwhile, the Bulgarians have announced that volatile striker Hristo Stoichkov will play for the national side in next month's World Cup qualifier against Israel, despite his statements to the contrary.

Stoichkov vowed last month to quit the team unless the country's soccer chiefs resigned. He accused the soccer union's bosses of cheating the players and criticized them for axing former coach Dimitar Penev and dropping his nephew Lyuboslav Penev from the national team.

The other squad members had confirmed they would arrive in Sofia for a training camp six days before the European group five match in Tel Aviv on September 1. Bonev said.

Israel Paralympians upset top table tennis seed

THE table tennis team of Sagi Zuckerman and Ze'ev Glickman upset No. 1 seed Japan 2-1 on Sunday at the Paralympics in Atlanta.

In tennis, Eyal Sartov beat Korea's Lim Kim 2-0, but succumbed in the doubles along with Gil Naor to an Austrian duo, 2-0.

The volleyball team picked up its first win by edging Great Britain 3-2. Starring for the squad were Hagi Zamir, Nisim Franko and Eliezer Klina. A win last night against the US would guarantee Israel a spot in the finals.

In swimming, Roni Bolotin grabbed himself a place in the 100 meter butterfly final by clocking 1 min. 7.7 sec. Bolotin is seeded seventh in the final.

Nahman Wolf finished in fourth place in the shotput, heaving the iron 11.99-meters.

Less fortunate were the blind lawn bowlers, Tami Carmieli, Yitzhak Barnett and Akiva Farber, who lost games, to Korea, Canada and South Africa.

Post Sports Staff

Small kept off Springboks

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - Winger James Small, described by his coach as the Eric Cantona of South African rugby union, has again been left out of the Springbok side to face New Zealand in the second Test in Pretoria on Saturday.

"James Small is a very talented rugby player and he has served his country with distinction on many occasions, but we can no longer tolerate his wayward behavior and the impact it is having on other players," Springbok coach Afafele Markgraaff said in a statement yesterday.

"In a way his case can be compared to the French footballer Eric Cantona who, despite his brilliance, has been excluded from selection to the French national team because of poor discipline on and off the field.

"However, Cantona has worked hard to improve his discipline and has won much respect for it. We hope that James can do the same."

Small was not picked for the first Test in Durban last Saturday after being seen in a night club at 2.00 am on the Friday before the Tri-Nations match against the All Blacks in Cape Town last week.

But Markgraaff said the incident was not the only factor behind the decision to omit Small from the squad. "Last week's disciplinary hearing was the culmination of a number of disciplinary

Sampras heads to US Open a champion

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Pete Sampras heads to next week's US Open with new confidence.

The world's top-ranked player handled the blazing serves of Goran Ivanisevic on Sunday to win the RCA Championships for a record third time, 7-6(7-3), 7-5. It was his first tournament triumph since April.

The victory, in a match that began two hours late because of rain, was Sampras's first in three matches with Ivanisevic on hard courts, giving him an 8-6 overall edge in head-to-head competition. "Goran is so difficult because he is so up and down, serves three aces in a row, double-faults twice," said Sampras, who also won at Indianapolis in 1991 and 1992 and collected \$150,000 for the victory. "You are not sure what is coming, you just have to stay very solid on your service games and hopefully have a chance to break him."

Sampras had a match point in the 10th game of the second set, but was broken. Ivanisevic then lost his service game on a double-fault, and Sampras served out to capture the match.

Ivanisevic, who has been in the top 10 five of the last six years, has never won a Grand Slam tournament, and has been eliminated in the first or second rounds at the U.S. Open in four of his seven appearances.

In Manhattan Beach, California on Sunday, Lindsay Davenport beat Anke Huber 6-2, 6-3 in the Acura Classic - her most significant championship since joining the WTA Tour three years ago.

She's been on a roll since winning the Olympic gold medal two weeks ago. Her ranking is projected to rise three spots to No. 7. Her highest-ever ranking was sixth two years ago.

"After the Olympics, that's when I said I can win a big tournament. I wanted to start proving to myself that I can."

Results of four-day County Championship cricket matches ending yesterday:

Derby: Derbyshire beat Nottinghamshire by 303 runs. Derbyshire 341 and 377-8 declared, Nottinghamshire 317 and 98 (D.Malcolm 5-43, P.DeFreitas 4-53). Derbyshire 23 points, Nottinghamshire 7.

Birmingham (Edgbaston): Warwickshire beat Glamorgan by two wickets. Warwickshire 498 and 136-8, Glamorgan 214 and 419. Warwickshire 24 points, Glamorgan 5.

Canterbury: Kent beat Somerset by 62 runs. Kent 616-7 declared and 92-2 declared, Somerset 389-8 declared and 257 (M.Lathwell 81, S.Eccleston 56, M.McCague 4-21). Kent 21 points, Somerset 5.

Manchester (Old Trafford): Lancashire and Hampshire - match drawn. Lancashire 342 and 306-5 declared, Hampshire 234 and 304-6 (R.Smith 77, W.Kendall 75). Lancashire 10, Hampshire 8.

London (Lord's): Middlesex and Worcestershire - match drawn. Worcestershire 369 and 233-8 declared, Middlesex 352-9 declared and 242-9 (J.Pooley 87, V.Solanki 5-69). Middlesex 9, Worcestershire 11.

County Cricket Standings table with columns for County, Runs, Wickets, Points.

Swans to host 1st finals match

MELBOURNE (AP) - The Sydney Swans earned the right to host its first Australian Football League finals match with a 23-point win over Hawthorn in Australian Rules football weekend play.

The Swans, who cannot finish out of the top four, beat Hawthorn 9.18 (72) to 7.7 (49) Saturday. Sydney full forward Tony Lockett booted four goals - all in the first half - to set up the win that kept the Swans in first place.

North Melbourne moved into second place on the ladder with a six-point win over Adelaide, kicking the only goal of the last quarter to win 10.16 (76) to 10.10 (70) Saturday.

The Brisbane Bears, in third place, scored an 87-point win over its 1997 merger partner, outgunning Fitzroy 16 goals to six in the second half to win 29.13 (187) to 14.16 (100).

On Sunday, the West Coast Eagles maintained fourth place, beating Carlton 19.13 (127) to

10.8 (68). Essendon defeated Collingwood 11.11 (77) to 9.10 (64) and Footscray beat St. Kilda 14.11 (95) to 8.9 (57).

Richmond snapped its Geelong jinx Saturday, notching its first AFL win over the Cats in six years. The Tigers muscled their way back into the final eight when they cruised to a 65-point victory, 19.18 (132) to 9.13 (67).

On Friday, Melbourne defeated Fremantle 13.14 (92) to 10.11 (71).

AFL LADDER (After 20 rounds)

AFL Ladder table with columns for Team, W, D, L, PF, PA, Pts, Pos.

'The Hebrew Hammer' wants to be 1st Jewish heavyweight champ

NEW YORK (AP) - Tim Puller calls himself "The Hebrew Hammer," and he wants to be the first Jewish heavyweight champion.

"There's Jewish promoters and Jewish managers in boxing, but there aren't many Jewish fighters," he said. "I want to show people that Jews can fight."

Puller, 27, will have a chance to make his mark tonight when he fights undefeated Lou Savarese (34-0, 28 knockouts) at The Theater in Madison Square Garden. Puller (13-4, 11 KOs) is a last-minute replacement for Buster Mathis Jr., who pulled out with a neck injury.

Although Puller was stopped in his last two bouts by Chris Byrd and Tim Witherspoon, the 6-foot-6, 225-pound fighter and part-time actor hasn't lost any of his confidence.

"I love boxing," said Puller, who has appeared in several low-budget movies and is slated to play an assassin in his next film. "I have the best job in the world. I get paid to beat people up, and it doesn't get me into trouble."

Puller's background is even more unusual than his philosophy. He was born in Israel to a Yemenite father and a Dutch mother, who spent four years in concentration

camp during World War II. His left arm is tattooed with a Star of David and a ring of barbed wire.

"The star represents my mom and the barbed wire represents the concentration camps," he said Sunday at a New York delicatessen. "I don't want anyone to forget what happened during the war."

Puller moved to the US in 1987 after graduating from high school.

The following year he left for San Francisco, where he started boxing at Newman's Gym. He soon ended up in Las Vegas, where he sparred with big-name fighters like Riddick Bowe, Evander Holyfield and Virgil Hill.

"I'd spar with anyone," Puller said. "Since I never fought as an amateur, I needed to learn how to box."

In his pro debut in 1990, Puller stopped Pedro Garza in the second round.

After winning his first six fights, Puller was stopped in the fifth round by Sam Warrior. After dominating early, Puller ran out of gas.

Puller, who lives in Los Angeles and currently trains in El Paso, Texas, is a colorful character who wears two large earrings and boxing trunks decorated with a Star of David and the flags of Israel and the US.

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Kibbutzim rip Shahak for 'bankrupt' IDF morale charge

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

KIBBUTZ leaders deflected comments by Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak that the kibbutz movement had become "bankrupt" because of the decline he said there is in the number of kibbutz youth who volunteer for combat units and sign on as officers.

Shahak's comments appeared to break the long-standing perception that kibbutz members play a disproportionately large role in elite units and commanding roles in the IDF. While true in the past, Shahak said the motivation to continue this tradition is declining. While some kibbutz members rejected the idea, movement leaders acknowledged that the trend exists, but that it mirrors the rest of Israel's secular society.

"The kibbutz movement has gone bankrupt - when it comes to volunteering to elite combat units, and particularly regarding the readiness to serve in officer roles," Shahak was quoted as telling the Paratroopers Heritage Association Sunday night.

Association director Nathan Shunari said his group had met with Shahak to discuss the eroding image of the IDF in Israeli society in general and the decline in motivation to serve in reserves in particular.

"I don't think he really meant bankrupt. But there is a problem. They [kibbutzniks] were the flag wavers in the past so it is easier to see the trend. We hear that for the first time people are putting on resumes that they don't do reserve duty thinking this will give them preference in getting a job," Shunari said.

Last week, Shahak told the Knesset Foreign Relations and Defense Committee that motivation to serve in the reserves is dropping so much that he would be "worried and scared" if Israel ever had to fight for its life. "I don't know what [Shahak] is talking about," said Ester Sivan, a member of Kibbutz Or Haner in the Negev and the mother of a soldier in an elite combat unit. "Nearly every one of the boys here volunteers and serves in combat units."

She did admit, however, that none went on to or plan to go on to become officers.

"They don't want to serve that extra year," she said. "Many times people become officers for economic reasons, but today on kibbutzim released soldiers are allowed to work for pay and they prefer that option."

Secretary-General of Kibbutz Ha'artzi Amiram Efrati said the movement is aware of the decline among kibbutz youth to sign on as officers.

"We are more sensitive to this because we are bringing with us a heritage of disproportionate service to the state. But what is happening is that we are becoming like the rest of society," Efrati said. "And we are not sure if we want that."

He blamed the increasingly unglorified police role of the army, as well as the decline of the belief that the soldier is defending the state as reasons for the lower number of kibbutz youth willing to make a military career.

The United Kibbutz Movement put out a statement acknowledging the relative drop in volunteerism among secular youth and a rise among the religious, but its Secretary-General Dubi Helman said it did not necessarily single out kibbutz youth. He said that the movement is already working to increase readiness to serve - particularly in field units - and to sign on as officers.

Kibbutzniks make up 2.8 percent of Israel's total population, but 18% of those drafted become officers, compared to 8% among other Israelis. Helman also said that UKM figures show 80% of kibbutz youth serve in field units, compared to 34% among other citizens. He also said that kibbutz youth make up a disproportionately large chunk of soldiers serving in elite units, but he said the exact figures were classified.

"Until now, the army itself has preferred to ignore the trend," Helman said in a statement. "This made it difficult for the kibbutz movement to coordinate joint programs to deal with the problem."



Soon-to-be discharged soldiers and other young people learn about options for further education yesterday at the 'Summer Studies 1996' exhibit at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds. (Avi Hayoun)

Israeli held by Turkish drug gang released there, then arrested here

DAVID RUDGE

TURKISH police rescued an Israeli being held for ransom by a local drug gang and ensured his safe return to Israel - where he was immediately arrested on suspicion of drug trafficking, it was revealed yesterday.

The spokesman for the Galilee police district said Yusef Mahr Inbitaweh, 24, of Shfar'am, was taken hostage two weeks ago

by the Turkish gang, allegedly because of a financial dispute relating to drug deals.

The gang reportedly extorted money from Inbitaweh's family, but after a large sum was transferred, they demanded more, and the family decided to turn to the police.

Police here managed to locate where Inbitaweh was being held. The Turkish authorities were informed and, in a swift ground operation, the hostage was released.

He was sent to Israel, where police awaited him at the airport and he was arrested on suspicion of dealing in hard drugs. "Inquiries are continuing and more arrests are expected," the spokesman said.

Britain Reform leader Hugo Gryn dies

LONDON (AP) - Rabbi Hugo Gryn, Holocaust survivor, broadcaster and leader of Britain's Reform Jewish community, has died, synagogue officials said yesterday. He was 66.

Gryn, a charismatic character who worked to build understanding with those of other faiths, died Sunday night of brain cancer, said Barry Hyman, spokesman for the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain. Gryn became its president in 1990.

"Hugo's tragic and early death is a grievous loss to the whole Jewish and wider community,"

said Rabbi Tony Bayfield, the movement's chief executive.

Born in the Carpathian region of the former Czechoslovakia, Gryn was held for two years of World War II in the Nazi concentration camps of Mauthausen and Auschwitz, where his father and brother perished.

In later interviews, he spoke movingly of the suffering Jews experienced in the camps.

After the war, he studied at the universities of Cambridge and London before obtaining a master's degree from the University of Cincinnati, Ohio.

After studies at Cincinnati's Hebrew Union College, he was ordained a rabbi in 1957, and served for the next three years as a rabbi in Bombay, India.

From 1960 to 1962, Gryn was



Rabbi Hugo Gryn (Reuters)

executive director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. Around this time, he settled in Britain. In 1964, he was appointed senior rabbi at the West London Synagogue, a center of Reform

Judaism. In the same year, Gryn was appointed vice president and lecturer at London's Leo Baeck College, a training school for rabbis.

For more than 20 years, Gryn served on the Standing Committee for Interfaith Dialogue in Education, which works to build religious understanding in schools. From 1987 to 1994, he was joint chairman of the Interfaith Network, an umbrella organization of interfaith groups.

Gryn wrote widely, including articles for the *Journal of the Central Conference of American Rabbis* and for the London-based newspaper, the *Jewish Chronicle*.

More recently, he built a career in religious broadcasting, winning praise for his sharp, witty contri-

butions to "The Moral Maze," a British Broadcasting Corp. radio program that probes issues of morality.

"He had the rare talent of being able to speak to all manner and conditions of people, but without compromising his own standing as a religious Jew," said the Rev. Ernest Rea, the BBC's head of religious broadcasting.

"His experience as a youth in the Nazi death camps could have left him embittered. Instead it gave him a deep sympathy for all suffering people and a determination to fight intolerance and prejudice."

Gryn was made an honorary Commander of the British Empire in 1992.

He is survived by his wife Jacqueline, three daughters and a son.

'Yediot' personnel questioned under caution

YEDIOT Aharoni security officer Haim Rosenberg and the daily's comptroller Yinon Angel were questioned under caution by police yesterday in connection with the media wiretapping case.

Rosenberg was first questioned some three weeks ago, as was his boss, publisher Arnon Mozes.

Ma'ariv publisher Ofer Nimrodi and the daily's security officer, David Ronen, have been indicted

in the case, but investigations against the rival daily were postponed. The breakthrough occurred when private investigator Ze'ev Laufer, charged with 14 counts of wiretapping, admitted he had been employed by Yediot. He is expected to reach a plea bargain agreement in return for his evidence.

It is still not known exactly why he decided to cooperate with police, but he has told investigators that wiretapping of both Yediot shareholders and Ma'ariv personnel was commissioned by Yediot. But a source said that

Laufer "obviously has an interest to cooperate, especially since previously he would barely confirm his name to detectives."

Police sources said that Laufer is telling detectives "everything about those who allegedly employed him, those above him, but nothing about those below him, other private investigators who carried out the wiretapping for him."

However police do not seem to care about the reason Laufer decided to cooperate, "as long as he tells the truth."

Mozes was questioned for the

fifth time last week, and has not admitted to any crime.

Meanwhile, the investigation of senior Yediot personnel is expected to have a bearing on the trial of Nimrodi, scheduled to begin on September 1. Nimrodi has denied all charges and is expected to use the Yediot investigation as his defense, possibly blaming Yediot for the crimes he has been charged with.

Over the past three weeks several Mozes family members have been summoned to give evidence, after Laufer told detectives he had tapped their phones, ostensibly acting on behalf of Arnon Mozes' side of the family.

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A Special Offer for readers of THE JERUSALEM POST

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man killed by hit-and-run driver
Ihab Tamimi, 22, of east Jerusalem, was killed Sunday night in a hit-and-run accident, apparently involving a stolen truck.
At about 11:30 p.m., police received a report that a truck had been stolen in Mishor Adumim. The truck was later found abandoned several kilometers away. Meanwhile, another report was received of an accident in which a pedestrian was killed. Eyewitnesses, including the victim's brother, said he was hit by a truck as he was crossing the road. *lit*

Acre man charged with murder
Shimon Step, 34, of Acre, was charged in Haifa District Court yesterday with murdering Nicolai Chervenakov, 50.
According to the prosecutor, Step attacked Chervenakov during an argument at the Hatzrot Yosef caravan site. Step allegedly hit Chervenakov with a plank into which they had been hammering nails, and shouted, "I'm going to kill you." *lit*

MK Elul warns Porush over aid
Labor MK Rafi Elul yesterday asked Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush not to harm lower-income families and young couples by changing aid criteria, saying that an attempt to give more assistance to haredi families would not stand up in the High Court of Justice.
According to Elul, aid recipients recently came to him and said their aid had either been suspended or canceled, apparently as a result of instructions from senior ministry officials. *lit*

MKs may only get 19% raise
MKs may only get a 19 percent raise this October, instead of the 33% they were expecting, due to an error in the wording of the decision approved by the Knesset House Committee last year. The decision as it stands applies the increase only to MKs' base pay, rather than to their benefits as well. However, the Knesset is expected to take steps to correct the error once Knesset legal adviser Zvi Inbar returns from vacation in two weeks. *Evelyn Gordon*

Fruit-picker bitten by snake
Said Safadi, 19, of Mas'ada in the Golan, is in serious condition at Rebecca Sieff Hospital in Safed after being bitten on the head by a snake. He had been picking fruit when a snake dropped out of the tree above him. A Magen David Adom crew quickly came to the scene to provide first aid. An IDF helicopter then brought him to the hospital. *lit*

Feast of Transfiguration marked
Thousands of Greek Orthodox faithful, including more than 50 busloads of pilgrims from Bethlehem, Ramallah, and elsewhere in the West Bank, were at Mt. Tabor yesterday to mark the Feast of the Transfiguration. The festival commemorates the occasion, described in the New Testament, on which Jesus took his disciples, Peter, James, and John, and together with Moses and Elijah, was transfigured before them. *Haim Shapiro*

Union: Security for all schools
Union of Local Authorities chairman Adi Eldar yesterday called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor not to discriminate against non-Jewish educational institutions in distributing security resources. He said the criteria used to distribute the resources should take Arab, Druze, and Circassian schools into account. *lit*

WEATHER

Haifa 23-30
Tiberias 23-35
Afula 20-31
Samaria 17-28
Tel Aviv 22-29
Jerusalem 16-26
BeerSheva 21-32
Dead Sea 23-35

Forecast: Lower temperatures than usual.

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Unit
Australia	12	24	C
Berlin	14	22	C
Buenos Aires	13	22	C
Calcutta	22	32	C
Chicago	13	22	C
Copenhagen	11	18	C
Frankfurt	13	22	C
Geneva	11	18	C
Helsinki	13	22	C
Hong Kong	25	32	C
London	13	22	C
Los Angeles	19	28	C
Madrid	13	22	C
Moscow	11	18	C
New York	13	22	C
Paris	13	22	C
Rome	13	22	C
Sydney	15	24	C
Tel Aviv	22	29	C
Toronto	15	24	C
Vancouver	13	22	C
Zurich	13	22	C

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